

African Violet

MAGAZINE



Trailer Makeover

New Digital Membership Option

Trailblazer David Senk

September • October 2020

Volume 73 Number 5

avsa.org

AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY

For accurate service, send your inquiries to the correct person.
Always include your name and address.

■ AVSA Business

•**AVSA Office Address:** AVSA, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720

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•**New or Renewal Membership:** Membership Application on white protective cover of *AVM* or at avsa.org/avsa-membership. Send check payable to AVSA in U.S. dollars from a U.S. bank; VISA or Mastercard for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office; or pay online.

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•**Affiliate Committee:** For information or how to organize a chapter, write Jeri Anderson, 1640 N. Kelly Place, Tucson, AZ 85715. *Email:* affiliate@avsa.org.

■ Shows and Judges

•**Shows and Judges Committee:** Mary Corondan, 434 Plumwood Way, Fairview, TX 75069. *Email:* judges@avsa.org.

•**Show Schedule Approval:** For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and approving schedules, write to: Susan Anderson, 4040 E. Maldonado Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85042.

Email: showschedule@avsa.org. Do not send Show Schedules by email; this address is for information only.

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•**Judges' Duplicate Cards:** Send self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Mary Corondan, 434 Plumwood Way, Fairview, TX 75069. *Email:* judges@avsa.org.

■ AVSA Fundraising

•**Fundraising:** Randy Deutsch, Chair, 2305 E 19th St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103-2356. *Email:* rcjsch@prodigy.net.

•**Funds:** Booster Fund, Boyce Edens Research Fund, Building Maintenance Fund, Tinari Endowment Fund.

•**Payment:** Send contributions for all funds to AVSA Office; please designate fund.

■ African Violet Magazine

•**AVM Editor:** Teresa Odle, P.O. Box 1828, Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346; (505) 259-0953. *Email:* editor@avsa.org.

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•**Articles, Columns and Memorials:** Send to Editor by publication deadline.

•**Coming Events:** Send to Editor or fill out event form on avsa.org by publication deadline.

•**Advertising Rates and Information:** Richard Craft, Chair, 9421 Teton Wood Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89129. *Email:* advertising@avsa.org. Send advertising to Chair by publication deadline.

•**Back Issues:** Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from AVSA Office. Send SASE for list or download from avsa.org/store-books.

■ International Registrar

•**Plant Registration:** Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Ln., Hanover Park, IL 60133-2667. *Email:* registration@avsa.org.

•**Master Varieties List (AMVL) & Supplements:** Download from AVSA website or order from AVSA office for \$2. Orders in writing only. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to: Joe Bruns, Plant Registration (see above).

•**Research:** Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified, potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304. *Email:* jsmith4@bsu.edu.

•**AVSA Scholarship Program:** Charles Ramser, 2413 Martin St., Wichita Falls, TX 76308. *Email:* charles.ramser@msutexas.edu.

■ AVSA Convention

•**Convention:** Kathy Lahti, Convention Chair, 4157 Oliver Ave. N.W., Annandale, MN 55302. *Email:* convention@avsa.org.

•**Future Dates:** Atlanta, GA, May 30–June 6, 2021; Little Rock, AR in 2020. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Chair.

•**Convention Programs:** Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Convention Chair.

•**Convention Awards:** Send suggestions to: Sharon Gartner, 5036 Paradise Pond Lane, Jacksonville, FL 32207. *Email:* awards@avsa.org. Send contributions to AVSA Office.

•**Commercial Activities, Sales and Exhibits:** For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Lynn Lombard, 4710 W. Justin Lane, Spokane, WA 99208. *Email:* commercials@avsa.org.

Join, renew and learn more at www.avsa.org

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African Violet MAGAZINE

Volume 73 Number 5

ON THIS COVER:
Rebel's Splatter Kake
AVSA 75th Anniversary
Hybridized by: R. Bann
AVSA Honor Roll, 2005
Large Standard

Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky



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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



President's Message

By Sue Ramser

2413 Martin St. • Wichita Falls, TX 76308

Email: president@avsa.org

To Our AVSA Friends:

As I write this column today our weather here in Texas is forecast to be in the 80s but our hot summer weather will return later in the week. Let's hope these next few months are cooler.

With our Virtual Convention behind us, we have been thinking about the opportunity to showcase our plants at fall shows. Yet many, if not all, local and regional affiliate shows have been cancelled due to the continuing COVID-19 outbreak. Continue to grow and maintain your African violet and gesneriad collections because there WILL be shows and conventions in the future. Our Atlanta hosts are eagerly anticipating our members bringing many violets and gesneriads to Atlanta in 2021 to fill the showroom with beautiful exhibits and designs.

Boyce Edens Scholarship

Congratulations to our 2020 to 2021 AVSA Boyce Edens College Scholarship recipient, Sonia Munoz, a graduate student at Texas A & M Kingsville, majoring in plant and soil science with an emphasis in entomology. Our Scholarship Chair, Dr. Charles Ramser, will share more information in the future about Sonia, along with application information for the 2021 to 2022 Scholarship.

2021 Convention and Show

Sharon Gartner, Convention Show Awards Chair, will be preparing the list of Special Awards soon. Please contact her if you would like to donate an award for the 2021 75th Anniversary AVSA Convention and Show in Atlanta, Georgia. Kathy Spissman and her 2021 AVSA Convention Committees, along with Kathy Lahti, Convention Director, are hard at work planning the 2021 Convention and Show in Atlanta.

We always welcome invitations and suggestions from different areas of the country to host a convention. Please contact Kathy Lahti or me.

New Membership Software

Amy Carruth, office manager, reports that implementation of the new iMIS membership software is progressing and will go "live" soon. When it is fully implemented it will manage our membership function and other office functions. Please be patient as we implement this new software.

Nominations

The AVSA Nominating Committee and its Chair, Linda Hall, welcome applications for director, secretary and third vice president positions this year. To become an officer, an applicant must have served on the Board of Directors for two years. If you or someone you know would like to submit an application, go to the member portion of the website (avsa.org/documents) for the application.

Your AVSA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs always are looking for members who possess a special talent. We would like to hear from you. We appreciate all our volunteers do to help our society meet the needs of our membership.

We continue to encourage you to share your concerns, suggestions or information with us, your Executive Committee. Our contact information is on page 2 of *AVM* and on the website. Your Executive Committee has been meeting electronically and will meet again in the near future. If you have concerns or items for us to consider, please contact me and we will address them at our next meeting. Please remember, through our two-way communication, African Violets Continue to Connect Us!



Editor's Notes

By Teresa Odle

Email: editor@avsa.org

First, I want to once again thank all AVSA members who write such high-quality articles for *African Violet Magazine*. Those writing contest entries have really stepped up their game, sharing unique approaches to growing and showing African violets. This year's contest won't award prizes for each issue, but the judges already are at work reviewing and selecting entries for the top prizes. You can enter this year's contest through the May/June 2021 issue (deadline March 1), so get those ideas put to paper or screen!

I also want to thank the generous people who write regular articles. These experienced growers share excellent tips and techniques with our readers. Many writers are beginning to interview growers and hybridizers they know so *AVM* readers can learn more about some of the innovators and leaders in the African violet world. I appreciate the articles and encourage you all to continue writing.

Digital Membership

We've been talking about a digital version of *AVM* for months. I am happy to report that all issues now will be online by the first day of their issue month (such as September 1 for this issue) for four months. Any member can link to and download the digital version of *AVM* to save, search and link from. I've heard from several people who are ready to switch to a digital-only membership, so learn more about that on page 8. Meanwhile, grab those hesitant friends, neighbors or family members and let them know AVSA now has several membership options.

Editorial Board Chair

Members of the Editorial Board help make *AVM* more relevant for our readers, and I want to thank them for their ongoing help. In particular, special thanks go to Paul Kroll, convening chair of the Editorial Board, for his support and guidance from the time I became

editor more than two years ago. Paul is stepping down as chair, but will continue to help and contribute excellent articles like the ones in this issue.

We are looking for
more articles about
regional growing.

I am excited to welcome Dale Martens as new Editorial Board chair. Dale has excellent experience as a columnist and editor in several gesneriad-related organizations. She also is active in the AVSA and in helping African violet growers through social media and AVSA presentations. I welcome Dale to our team and look forward to her input.

This month, we are looking for more articles about regional growing. Even though we keep our African violets safely inside all year, factors like humidity, heat, and cold affect the growing medium and watering practices we use to keep the plants healthy. We tend to learn the hard way in both outdoor gardening and with African violets that "one size does not fit all." For an example, see Pat Hancock's article about soil on page 6. I would love to feature several articles from growers around the country and world. How do you adjust your soil mix? How do you control the temperature in your growing environment?

I hope some of you will share your lessons learned and clever approaches to solving environmental effects on your plants and how you care for them. Be sure to mark your article as a contest entry if you'd like to enter.



AVSA Office Update

By Amy Carruth

P.O. Box 22417 • Beaumont, TX 77720

Email: office@avsa.org

In a recent issue of *AVSA News*, it was stated that members with a current email address will receive a digital copy of the magazine via email. Although that is not the case, members can access a digital copy of the magazine in the members' section of the website. To log in to the members' section, you will need your membership number and your last name exactly as it appears on your *AVM* mailing label.

We have purchased a new software program for our membership database. Once this goes live, our members will be able to access and edit their membership information and renew their membership, all online through our website. This is an exciting time for

AVSA! More details will be coming soon. Please send the AVSA office your current email address with your member number to help us update your information for the new system. If you have an Associate Member residing in your home, please send their membership number and email address as well.

We have had several calls about renewals and new memberships not being processed via the mail or magazines not being received. I have spoken to our local post office to get matters resolved. **In the meantime, if you have any issues, please contact the AVSA office as soon as possible.**



Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

Smooch Me

AVSA 75th Anniversary

Hybridized by: K. Stork
Best in Show,
2000, for Nancy Price
Standard

One Soil Does Not Fit All

By Pat Hancock Middletown, Ohio

I started growing violets for show in the early 1990s. I have probably tried more soil recipes than cookie recipes — and I make a lot of cookies. In the early 1990s, I also met Marie Burns and she was kind enough to share her soil recipe with me. Her beautiful show plants were advertising enough for her soil.

Marie's recipe had a base of "Baccto African violet soil" with the addition of perlite, vermiculite and dolomite lime to regulate the pH. It also contained dehydrated cow manure. Baccto was a wonderful soil and I still would be using it except Baccto quit making it. Marie knew of a farm store that carried the soil and we drove to Maryland to get all they had left. We had the employees going high into the storage area to find every bag. My share of our haul lasted me about six months.

Trying New Recipes

Kent Stork was using a recipe that was about one-half peat moss and one-half bark with perlite, vermiculite, charcoal and dolomite lime. I drove to Chillicothe (on the other side of Ohio) to pick up some bark at a school. It had been sitting outside for a while and to my regret, it was full of mealybug eggs. Mealybugs were the worst in those days, before we had Marathon.

After that, for some time, I cooked my soil in the oven. The smell was really bad and we usually went out to eat on "soil-cooking days." About that time, I heard of a soil additive called "super soil." It was made by Jim Wright in Georgia. It was all organic, containing blood meal, cottonseed meal, bone meal, wood ashes, and several other organic ingredients. I added peat moss, perlite, vermiculite, charcoal, dolomite and dehydrated cow manure.

I grew my best plants in that soil. When Jim died, I had to come up with a new soil recipe once again.

By this time, many good growers were using PRO-MIX in varying recipes. At first, I used PRO-MIX BX, with all the usual additives. Later, I switched to 9 to 10 parts PRO-MIX HP, along with five parts of Happy Frog Potting Soil, 10 or 11 parts perlite, a handful of fine (seed-starting) vermiculite, a handful of charcoal, and 1 tablespoon of molasses powder. Both of my clubs also use this recipe. It works great in Ohio.

The right soil can win
ribbons for you.

Different Soil for Different Environments

About three years ago, I got a rude awakening. I have always advised people to make their own soil and I have always shared my recipes when asked. I shared my recipe with a grower who lives in Hawaii. She called a few weeks later with the news that it had killed her plants.

I really had not realized how much the humidity in a location had to do with selecting soil ingredients. In Hawaii, her plants' roots had rotted because they were too wet. My soil was "too heavy" for her very humid environment. She needed a soil with much more perlite and no vermiculite. People who live in Arizona or other dry climates need a soil with less perlite and more vermiculite. In other words — depending on where you live and the kind of climate you have, "one soil does not fit all."

It is always wise to check with "good growers" in your own area about the soil proportions that work best in your climate. The right soil can win ribbons for you. The wrong soil can make you want to give up.

We're Looking for Articles on Regional Growing

By Teresa Odle • Email: editor@avsa.org

We love receiving all articles about growing African violets and gesneriads, so please keep submitting, and mark your contribution as a contest entry if you'd like to enter.

Maybe it's because I live in a place with wild temperature extremes and average indoor humidity of less than 20 percent, but I often wonder how to adjust growing advice based on my violets' environment. So, I am looking for some feature articles this year about "regional growing." Even though we grow our

violets indoors, what happens outside can affect how we care for the plants and various challenges we must overcome.

It would be fun and helpful to see some local advice from around the country and world — based either on geography or indoor conditions (such as natural vs. artificial light, growing in basements vs. living areas). Make the most of all your trial and error to help a fellow grower facing similar challenges. Thanks!

Correction: July/August 2020 AVM

We have a few corrections to make to the July/August *AVM*.

Virtual Convention Prizes

AVSA inadvertently left Violet Peddlers Plus off the list of generous Commercial Members who donated prizes for our Virtual Convention and Show (page 11 in the July/August issue of *AVM*).

We have added Violet Peddlers Plus to the list of donors on the virtual convention site and want to thank them again for donating prizes.

Contest Awards

The Article Contest prizes on page 56 should be revised to read: First prize in the 2020-2021 contest

receives: 32 leaves from eight generous contributors and a one-year membership to AVSA.

Second prize: 16 leaves from eight sources and a six-month membership.

Third prize: 8 leaves from our contributors and a six-month membership.

Special thanks to Pat Hancock for coordinating the awards, to Sue Hoffmann for overseeing judging and to all the generous hybridizers and exhibitors who mail prizes to winners.

Now, get busy submitting!

New Digital Membership

By Steve Covolo, Membership Chair

Email: memberpromo@avsa.org

The time has arrived! There is a new membership option coming available for African violet growers; it's called an Individual Digital Membership. Our membership has been asking for this option, and we've been listening.

About the New Option

What is an Individual Digital Membership, you ask? Members now can select to receive their *African Violet Magazine* only digitally; AVSA will not mail them a hard copy of the *AVM* via USPS. Instead, those members who choose this option will read the magazine online in the membership content section at www.avsa.org/digitalAVM. The new option became available for purchase beginning August 15, 2020. The cost of the Individual Digital Membership is \$28 per year, and only individual and international individual members will have this choice.

Our new digital membership offers considerable savings for international members, including those living in Canada. Canadian and International members will see membership savings ranging from \$12 to \$32 (US dollars) a year. Individual U.S. members will save \$7 per year.

Again, those members who opt for the digital membership will not receive a hard copy of the *AVM* in the mail. The digitized *AVM* will be available to read on AVSA's website by the first day of every month in which an issue publishes. There currently are two issues available in digital format on the website at all times; you can download them to your devices or files to keep them for later reference.

Selecting Membership Options

We can't offer prorated discounts for members wanting to switch to digital membership during their current membership period. So, upon your renewal date, you'll have the option of selecting the standard

membership or new Individual Digital Membership option.

Both memberships
still include all benefits
of joining AVSA ...

All current and renewing Individual Members will continue to receive the *AVM* via USPS, plus a digital version, all at the current price of \$35. All International and Canadian members who choose not to select the Individual Digital Membership also will continue to pay the current price of their membership if they want both a printed and digital version of *AVM*.

Please spread the word. All new members who want to join AVSA as an Individual Digital Member and current members who want to change options on their renewal dates can go to AVSA.org. Then click on the link that reads "Join AVSA," scroll to the middle of the page, and click on the hyperlink; this will take you to the membership options page. You also can renew using the information on the cardboard cover of the magazine.

The benefits of the Individual Digital Membership are instant access, a lower membership fee, no bulk mail delays, searchable PDFs, and active/clickable links to advertisers and information. Plus, it's great for the environment. Both memberships still include all benefits of joining AVSA, such as discounts in our store. Learn more about the digital *AVM* in the July/August 2020 issue, starting on page 54, and in the tutorial on the Digital *AVM* webpage.

Here's How to Get the Most from Your Digital AVM

Not all AVSA members are tech fans, so here are the steps to take if you want to read and save the digital version of each issue of *African Violet Magazine*. If you have problems, contact the editor, Teresa Odle, at editor@avsa.org.

Step 1: Access the Magazine

Go to the AVSA Website. On or about the first day of each issue month (such as September 1), and log in as a member on the AVSA website, www.avsa.org. If you're not sure how to log in, click on the button near the upper left (Member Login Instructions) of the home page. Have your member no. handy (it's on the mailing label portion of the white cardboard cover that protected this issue).

Once you know you are logged in, click "Member Content" on the left menu. The site will take you to a new page with another left menu. There, click the second button called "AVM Current Issue Digitized." You also can just go directly to this page by typing www.avsa.org/digitalAVM into your browser search bar or clicking to the digital version from the magazine page (avsa.org/magazine) if you already are logged in.

The page contains some introductory information and links to a tutorial that goes into more detail on how to view (zoom text for easier reading) and link. Click the tutorial if you need help or want to learn more. Then, scroll down to the current year and you will see a link to the most recent issue on top, followed by the prior issue. Click the link and you are there.

Step 2: Download a Copy if You Like

As a member, you can freely download and keep this digital version of AVM for your own use. If you choose a Digital Membership, be sure to download each issue within a few months before it recycles off the page. Even if you still get a print magazine, you can

refer to this digital copy to search topics, names, events or articles and to link directly to advertisers online.

Here's how to download the issue: Depending on your browser, you should see an arrow that points down toward a line (next to a printer icon), usually when you move your pointer up to the top of the page. Click that download button, then save the issue as you would any photo, document or other download to your phone, tablet or computer.

Step 3: Honor Copyright

The purpose of the digital version of AVSA's magazine is to add to member benefits and flexibility. If members share the magazine, or even a portion of it, with nonmembers without permission, they are hurting themselves in the long run (and breaking copyright law...). Instead, tell people about the magazine, print or digital, but please don't share it. We trust our members and would rather not complicate your access by adding all sorts of password protection to the issues.

Step 4: Enjoy

With the digital issue, you can click on links to photos and articles directly from the Table of Contents, and to ads directly from the Index of Advertisers. You also can click from our ads to websites or email addresses of Commercial Members.

Learn more about how to read and navigate a PDF with the tutorial on the *AVM Current Issue Digitized Page*.



Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

Rob's Fuzzy Navel

AVSA 75th Anniversary

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Won Best in Show for Kathy Lahti, 2005

Semiminiature

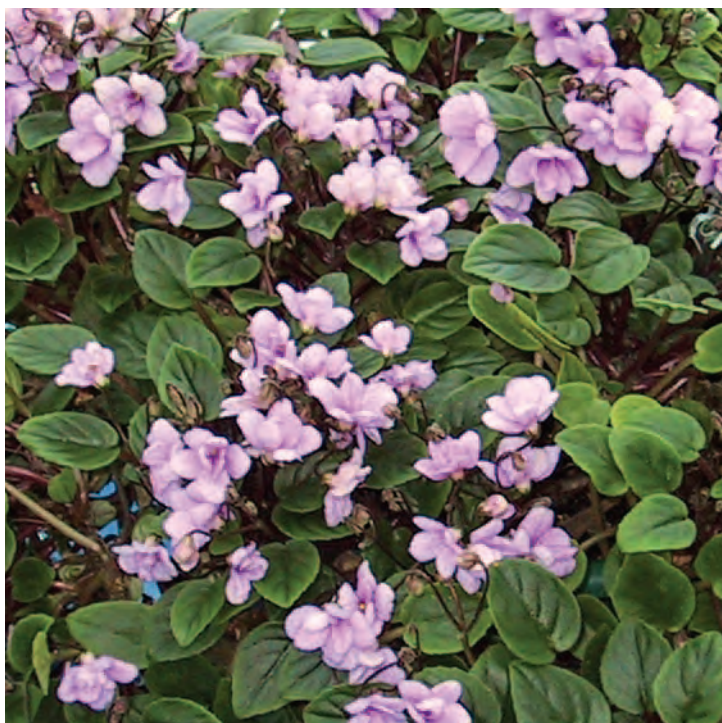


Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

Rob's Sticky Wicket

AVSA 75th Anniversary

Hybridized by: R. Robinson
Honor Roll, 2000
Semiminiature Trailer



Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

Rob's Galiwinku

AVSA 75th Anniversary

Hybridized by: R. Robinson
Tally Time, 2003 and 2019
Semiminiature Trailer

Contest Entry —

Getting the Most Out of That Violet Leaf

By Karyn Cichocki Lafayette, New Jersey

Email: kdc05@ptd.net

I've been growing African violets from leaves since the mid-1970s. Before I joined a club in 1982, I started African violets the same way my mom did. She would fill either a glass jar or juice glass halfway with water and cover the top with a piece of aluminum foil. She then would poke a hole in the foil and place the leaf stem through the hole and into the water. The stem wasn't cut at an angle as we have been taught to do. She placed the glass/jar on her kitchen windowsill, and after a short time, the leaf would start growing roots and then plantlets. Both my grandmothers would start leaves the same way.

Early Struggles

Although I have memories of seeing jars with rooted leaves in them, I don't remember what happened afterward. So, when I started growing African violets from leaves, I followed the same early procedure and then struggled getting the plantlets to survive once I transplanted them. I found out later this was because the roots were used to being in water, and once I put them into regular potting soil, they had trouble breathing.

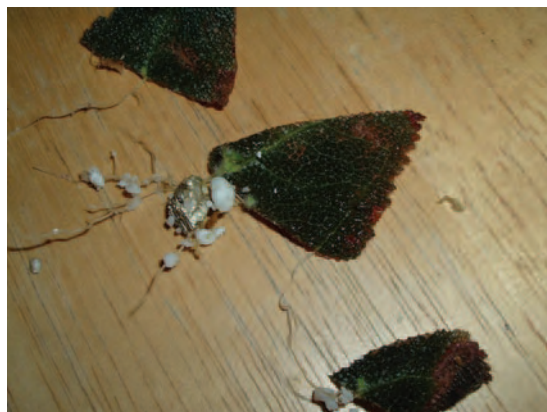
Once I joined a club, I learned about starting leaves in soil, cutting the stem at an angle. I eventually learned not to pot up every single little plantlet and to take only the largest, or possibly the largest two, if the second plantlet looked good. Like many newbies, I was disappointed with the lack of success I had with all those little plantlets I potted up from each leaf I started.

Propagating Gesneriads

After moving to New Jersey in 1995, I joined a local Gesneriad Society chapter. My love for propagating African violets for my local club show carried over to the gesneriad chapter. Over the years, I've learned

how to propagate a variety of gesneriads by leaves. I've found the best method for my conditions is to take a clear plastic box with a lid (for large-scale propagation, I use an old acrylic sweater box, but any clear plastic container with a cover will do), put a layer of damp perlite in it and then cover that with a layer of damp, chopped-up sphagnum moss.

You don't want either the perlite or the moss to be too wet or the plant material will rot.

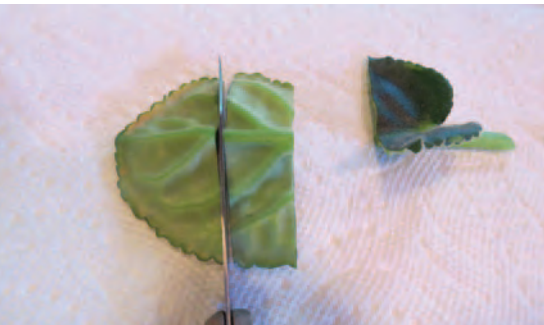
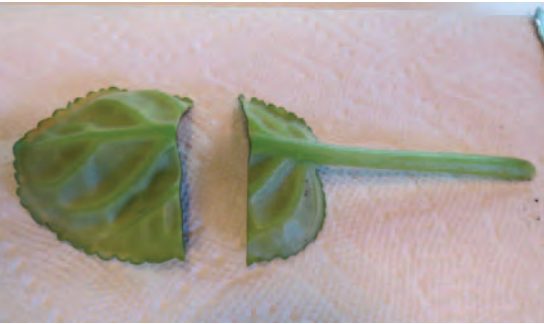


Top: These gesneriad cuttings show how roots have formed at the veins. Bottom: I used a similar procedure for this African violet leaf, with the first cut just below a set of veins, leaving enough leaf to support the stem.

When I receive gesneriad leaves, sometimes they are quite large so I've cut the top of the leaf off and put that section down like I would for an African violet leaf. Then, depending on its size, I will cut the leaf top into pieces, making sure that I have at least one vein in the leaf section. I take the cut end of the leaf piece and snuggle it into the moss. You don't want to bury the leaf piece too deeply. A plantlet will grow wherever there is a leaf vein. So you can get several sections from one leaf and get more plantlets from that leaf.

African Violet Leaf Cuts

In 2018, I was one of the winners of the *AVM* article contest and received African violet leaves from many hybridizers. Most of the leaves were huge



Top: Leaf on previous page after first cut. Center: Making second leaf cut. Bottom: Continuing to make cuts of sections with veins.

A plantlet will grow wherever there is a leaf vein.

and I normally would have cut the top of the leaf off and tossed it (this stops the leaf from continuing to grow and encourages root formation). But because these leaves were from plants that are not commonly grown here on the East Coast, I decided that I would get the most out of the leaves that I could and I followed the same procedure that I use with other gesneriad leaves by cutting them into pieces.



Top: Top piece of leaf was large enough to cut off the very tip (piece above bottom section of leaf). The middle section was wide enough to cut the sides to form a wedge piece from the center of the leaf (bottom piece). The stem end was cut at an angle and was wide, so I cut its sides off. All pieces shown ready to put in the propagation box. Bottom: Leaves in propagation box.

I put the leaf pieces cut-end down into the moss, along with the leaf section with the stem. The plantlets that formed where there was a vein were robust, even if there were multiple veins in the leaf piece. For a leaf piece that had multiple veins, I would wait for the plantlets to get big enough to have a good root system for support before I cut the leaf into sections with one plantlet per section. If you wait long enough and the plantlet is bigger, it can be separated from the leaf.

I don't know why I never thought of using this method before for starting African violets, but I'm thankful that I did because I have many more plants to share than I would have had using the usual method. Using this propagation method will give you the healthiest plantlets from a leaf, which you want if it is an uncommon plant, one for which you just

paid a good price, or when propagating for your club plant sales.



Plantlets forming at the edges of veins on a *Cyrtandra* species plant.



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AVSA 75th Anniversary: 2003 Annual Convention, Baton Rouge



2003 National Convention Show Room:
Horticultural and Design Exhibits.
Photo by Winston Goretsky.

2003 National Convention
Show Room, Baton Rouge.
Photo by Winston Goretsky.



2003 National Convention
Sales Room, Baton Rouge.
Photo by Winston Goretsky.

Growing Trailers: A 12-Step Program

By Cristy Boothe Cordova, Tennessee

Growing trailing African violets is my passion. When I finally discovered this method, trailers started really taking off for me. Although a 12-step program usually helps someone break an addiction, this program actually leads to violet trailer addiction!

Last October, I decided to repot my Rob's Galiwinku using a modified "Japanese style" method. Members of my club had shared with me ways to do this to create a more lush and larger trailing plant that would produce a nice bloom count.

Sometimes it is better to view a process in person or through photos to see the details of each step than to have someone simply tell you how to do it. Since I am a member of several African violet groups on Facebook, I decided to take photos of each step as I carefully began to repot the trailer. Many people commented on this method and were happy to get a visual of each step.



Trailer pot sizes.

Some growers wanted to know where to get the shallow pot I used. It is simply a drip saucer that goes under standard planting containers. These can be ordered online or found at a local hardware store or garden center. Others asked about how to drill the holes for the drainage. I used an old soldering iron, but you also can use a woodburning tool or a drill since the plastic is very sturdy.

Violet growers recycle everything, so find some small condiment cups, pudding or yogurt cups and cheap plastic dessert bowls from a discount store to move your trailers up until they grow out of a 5-inch pan pot. Then, pot them up in an 8-inch drip pan. The pans come in many sizes, so if you don't have a 5-inch pan, use a 4- to 6-inch drip pan, then gradually move to a larger one.

Warning... this 12-Step Program (pictured on the next page) will only addict you further!

Step 1. Plant is in a 5-inch pan pot, and will go into a plastic drip saucer that is about 8.5 inches in diameter and 11.5 inches deep.

Step 2. Remove large leaves.

Step 3. Put holes in saucer using a woodburning tool or soldering iron. Add two wicks made of 2-ply baby yarn.

Step 4. Add a layer of perlite and pull the wicks to the top of the perlite.

Step 5. Add soil that is mixed with 50 percent perlite and lift the wicks above the soil.

Step 6. Get ready to transplant. This trailer still is in the original pot with leaves removed.

Step 7. Check the roots for any crawlies and to make sure roots are healthy.

Step 8. Take off the bottom layer of perlite and soil, being careful not to harm roots.

Step 9. Gently set the plant in new soil, then add a bit more soil mix to fill the pot.

Step 10. Find a large container for a reservoir (I used a large cake dome).

Step 11. Set the pruned and repotted trailer atop a water reservoir. You can remove even more leaves. Don't be timid!

Step 12. In 6 to 8 weeks, you will have a beautiful plant. Here is the result for my Rob's Galiwinku.



Step 1.



Step 2.



Step 3.



Step 4.



Step 5.



Step 6.



Step 7.



Step 8.



Step 9.



Step 10.



Step 11.



Step 12.

Contest Entry —

David Senk: African Violet Trailblazer

By Rich Follett Strasburg, Virginia

Almost anyone you meet at an African violet club meeting, convention, or in an online African violet group or forum will be familiar with the work of American hybridizer David Senk. David's unusual varieties have been the topic of energetic discussion since they first appeared on the scene in the early 2000s. A David Senk hybrid typically is characterized by longifolia leaves, exotic bloom shapes and an other-worldly quality brought about by pushing Saintpaulia DNA to previously unknown extremes. Many growers are drawn to David Senk's hybrids; and some find them strange. But everyone talks about them, all over the world. Joyce Stork, past president of the AVSA and an internationally recognized African violet author, said of David's work: "David Senk changed the AVSA."



David Senk, African violet hybridizer.

The test growers were electrified by David's new hybrids.

A Geek Gets Hooked

David Senk's African violet journey began in 1990 when his grandmother bought a few plants for him at a farmers' market. He was fascinated by the plants and began to read everything he could find to learn more about African violet history and culture. One day in 2000, David stumbled across a book with a chapter on the basics of African violet hybridization and was inspired to try making some crosses of his own. According to David, "I am an engineer — a bit of a geek anyway, so hybridizing was right down my alley."

He was particularly drawn to longifolia leaves and wasp blossoms and kept those goals in mind as he began to hybridize. For his early attempts, David chose several varieties for specific traits — among them, Reddy Trail (for its longifolia leaves and trailing growth habit), Chantaspring (for the unusual yellow blooms), and Celery (for a strongly expressed wasp gene). After several crosses and back-crosses, David had what he thought was a promising crop of successful seedlings and recruited African violet friends and clubs near and far to be his "test growers."

The results were sensational — the test growers were electrified by David's new hybrids. By 2003, David Senk's work was the topic of lively discussion among African violet enthusiasts across America and even in some places overseas. After purchasing a few starter

plants from David on eBay, I began an e-mail conversation that quickly grew into a friendship. As a result, I became one of David's test growers, and before long we were enthusiastically discussing hybridization goals and techniques.

Time to Register

As an AVSA judge and former AVSA Board member, I knew that David Senk's wonderful hybrids would not reach their full potential until they could be judged under the standard point scale in an AVSA show. This could not happen until they were registered in the AVSA Master Varieties List (AMVL). So, in 2007, I asked David if he would allow me to help with the process of registering his hybrids. To my surprise, his response was enthusiastic! Many discussions followed, in which we worked together to fine-tune descriptions. By January 2008, I sent the first 34 registrations for David Senk hybrids to the AVSA.

I would like to make it clear at this point in the story that my contributions to David's legacy were to help write descriptions for his hybrids, share ideas for names (some of which David adopted), and prepare and submit the registration forms to the AVSA. Apart from suggesting a few varieties that David might use in hybridizing to achieve some desired results, I had no hand in the planning or execution of his hybridization process.

AVSA regulations require the name of the person who registers a variety to appear alongside the hybridizer's name in cases where the hybridizer does not submit the forms. For this reason, my name appears with David Senk's in the AVSA registry. I requested several times that David send the forms to the AVSA himself to avoid this, but he insisted that my name should appear along with his. He is a kind, generous, and humble man, so I am not surprised by his decision, but I do want the record to show what my role was (and was not) in this chapter of AVSA history.

Growers Take Notice

Once the Senk hybrids were registered, their appeal to African violet growers quickly gained momentum. Within the world of growing and showing, however, change was slow to come: although the first Senk hybrids were entered in an Educational Display

"Make something unusual, memorable and beautiful — that's the win."

section of the AVSA National Convention by 2016, it was not until the AVSA 2019 National Convention in Houston, Texas, that hybrids with unusual traits had a separately judged class of their own. This is where Senk's Anemone took top honors in its class (Best Novelty/Unusual Saintpaulia Foliage) for Sam Cunningham of Houston. Ironically, by that time, David had stopped growing and hybridizing altogether after some major life changes and an infestation of pesticide-resistant mites that completely wiped out his collection.



Senk's Anemone from David Senk. Grown by Sam Cunningham. Photo credit: Richard Craft.

By 2010, new registrations to the AMVL already were listing Senk hybrids as parent plants. Varieties with Senk DNA began to appear in Russia, Ukraine, Sweden, Japan and other countries across the globe, and still are appearing today. In many cases, these new hybrids are even more interesting and unusual than their Senk ancestors.

In an interview for this article, I asked David how he feels about this. He said, "I am jazzed about that. That's how we live on!" I also asked him for his

assessment of the new generation of Russian and Ukrainian hybrids that build upon his work. He said, “Man, they knock my socks off!” When I asked him to name his favorite Russian or Ukrainian African violet hybrid, he did not hesitate for a moment before naming LE-Erika, from Ukrainian hybridizer Elena Lebetskaia.

Private but Persistent

David Senk is an intensely private man (although he will readily “talk violets”) who diligently avoids the spotlight but loves to see his hybrids grown and enjoyed. He recently began hybridizing again and has asked me, as before, to be a test grower and to help him register his new hybrids when the time comes. I agreed, of course — I consider our friendship to be a great honor. In our last phone conversation, I told him that he has inspired me to take up hybridizing again. We discussed our ages (he is 58; I am 60) and he joked that we only have about 40 years left to pursue our goals! This type of humor is typical of his warm and witty nature.

David’s hybridization goals are the same today as they were when he began hybridizing 20 years ago; he would like to produce a true yellow wasp bloom with longifolia leaves. He lists Chantaspring as a desirable parent for yellow coloration, primarily because the color is consistently true and uniform, and the pollen easier to obtain than some other yellow varieties, which give up pollen reluctantly (if at all). In all these years, he has never lost his passion for hybridizing or lost sight of his dream. The hybridization process, he says, is addictive: “The first time you get a seed pod to set and seedlings to grow, you’re hooked!”

Asking a hybridizer to choose a favorite African violet from his own hybrids is a bit like asking a parent to choose a favorite child, but as it turns out, David is partial to one in particular: Anemone, known for its wildly corkscrewed “Shrek

... he has never lost
his passion for
hybridizing or lost
sight of his dream.

ear” foliage and oddly contorted blue/purple wasp blossoms. At the end of our recent interview, I asked David if he had any advice to offer future hybridizers. His reply reflects his dedication to the art: “Create something *new*. The uniform, round violet has been out there for so long! Make something unusual, memorable and beautiful — that’s the win. Go off the trail!”

David Senk’s amazing work has helped change the world’s idea of what an African violet can be. He would most certainly be astounded to learn that some call him a genius, but it is an apt moniker. The effects of his pioneering vision will ripple across oceans and continents, delighting, astonishing, and inspiring African violet enthusiasts for generations to come.



Senk's Fruit Fly. Hybridized by: R. Follett/D. Senk. Exhibited by: Wilhelmina Allen, Houston 2019. Photo credit: AVSA Library Committee.

Coming Events

Fall African violet shows and sales still might be cancelled because of the COVID-19 virus. This list represents those shows still scheduled on our website as of July 29. Be sure to check the AVSA website Events page (www.avsa.com/events), search the local club on Facebook, or contact the organizers below for the latest information.

■ September 12 — Georgia

African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta
Show and Plant Sale
North Decatur Methodist Church
1523 Church Street
Decatur, GA
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sue Myers: 630-319-3155
avclubofga@gmail.com

■ October 3 — Michigan

Michigan State African Violet Society
Display and Sale
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
800 N. Dixboro Rd
Ann Arbor, MI
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Lynn Allen: LynnAllen0413@comcast.net

■ October 3 — Texas

Spring Branch African Violet Club
Plant Sale
Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center
2020 Hermann Drive
Houston, TX
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Teresa Kaminski: tckaminski@sbcglobal.net

■ November 7 — Oregon

Portland African Violet Association
Education/displays/sales
Portland Nursery
9000 SE Division
Portland, OR
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Alice Wagner: 503-631-3925
alicemaebblue@yahoo.com

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Family Portrait: *Streptocarpella* 'Blueberry Creme'

By Paul Kroll

5953 Broadway, No. 128 • Lancaster, NY 14086

Email: pfkroll@me.com

There has been a discussion going on recently among the gesneriad growers regarding the plant I have chosen for this Family Portrait column. I thought it particularly appropriate to select this plant because of its name controversy over the years. This *Streptocarpus* subgenus *Streptocarpella* 'Blueberry Creme' has been seen in many shows over the years, but was called *Streptocarpella* 'Blueberries 'n' Cream'.

Clarifying the Name

After researching the name, it was discovered that there were two plants carrying the same name! Jonathan Ford had hybridized and named a *Streptocarpus* 'Blueberries 'n' Cream' that is acaulescent (having no stem)/rosette (rosette shaped) and has solid green foliage.



Streptocarpus subgenus *Streptocarpella* 'Blueberry Creme'.

The plant I am discussing in this article was hybridized and registered by Patrick Worley. This plant is caulescent (stemmed) and shows coloration of white and/or yellow on its foliage. Although not technically

“variegated,” the plant’s foliage looks like it has variegation. Please note the proper name of *Streptocarpus* subgenus *Streptocarpella* 'Blueberry Creme' and change your labels!

... there were two
plants carrying the
same name!

Growing Blueberry Creme

I have grown this plant for many years. Its brightly colored foliage is an immediate attraction and the blooms, carried high above the foliage, also are most alluring. The caulescent growth is stemmed, unlike the *streptocarpus* plants that are so popular today, which are rosette in growth habit.

Streptocarpella plants often can be found in nursery catalogs and stores, usually as hanging basket plants. They do well in that situation. I grow mine in a shallow bowl. One of my pot alternatives is a snack bowl from the dollar store with holes drilled into the bottom for drainage. Remember, gesneriads (and African violet trailers) may be exhibited in any pot in which they grow.

I take cuttings from the plant and put them down in the bowl, filling the surface with several cuttings so that the plant has a full appearance quickly. I put the pot of cuttings into a plastic baggie and allow them to root. Gradual weaning from the bag produces a nice-looking plant. Not long after the cuttings have rooted, they will begin to bloom freely.

The variegated-appearing foliage is so attractive that I often use a rooted tip cutting in a container garden

planting as well. The leaves add texture and color variation to the plantings.

With regular potting mix and weekly diluted fertilization, the plant thrives. I have recently grown it at the edge of a shelf with four T-8 bulbs above. It will grow easily and well under two tubes, which I have done for years. Some growers believe that the foliage will go completely pale green when grown cool, but I have never experienced that in all the years I have grown this *Streptocarpus*.

When the plant begins to look ratty, I take cuttings and start it over! This is an easy plant to get to bloom,

I often use a rooted tip cutting in a container garden planting.

and it always looks happy and supplies lots of cheery blooms. Try it if you don't already have it, and if you do have it, please change your label to reflect the proper name.

“Perfectly Pittman” Video

This video chronicles the multiple hybrids, growing techniques, growing spaces and AVSA involvement of Hortense and Ray Pittman.



Jolly Orchid

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Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

Johnny Angel

Exhibited by: Debbie McInnis

Hybridized by: P. Sorono

From Best AVSA

Standard Collection

AVSA 2019 Convention, Houston
Standard



Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

***Streptocarpus* 'Canterbury Surprise'**

Exhibited by: Sherrie Zimmerman

AVSA 2019 Convention, Houston



Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

Windy Day

AVSA 75th Anniversary

Hybridized by: K. Stork/G. Boone
AVSA Honor Roll, 2001
Large Standard



Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

Baby Brian

AVSA 75th Anniversary

Hybridized by: P. Tracey
Best in Show in 2003 for
Dr. Bill Price
Semiminiature Trailer

Shows and Judges Column

By Mary Corondan, Chair Email: judges@avsa.org

It was thrilling to have such a beautiful Virtual Violets Convention amid the pandemic when we were unable to gather. Many thanks to all of you who participated by entering exhibits. Viewing the lovely plants was a welcome distraction from the world situation.

New Master Judges

Congratulations to those becoming Master Judges in October 2020. They are Kathryn Hedgepeth, Virginia; Barbara Pershing, Iowa; and William Schmidt, Virginia.

Add Your Email Address

The Shows and Judges Committee and the Executive Committee have approved listing the email addresses of judges in the “members only” section of the website provided the AVSA judge has granted permission for us to include it there. If you would like your email address added to the AVSA Judges’ List on the website, please email me at judges@avsa.org. Unless you request it, your email address will not be added.

Approved Items

The following items have been approved:

1. The SSA packet will be placed on the Shows and Judges’ website page as a printable packet for use by affiliates with approved show schedules. This will include the AVSA Collection Score Sheets, Tally Time form, Show Critique Sheet, AVSA Standard Show Award point score sheet and the “And the winners are...” form. Blue/green cards and rosettes will still be mailed. This will save on postage and make forms readily available to affiliates.
2. If a show has more than 50 percent other geraniads, the judges still can count the judging of the show toward their judging certification.
3. The price for international registration of violets has been reduced from \$25 to \$10. This should encourage more violet registrations from other countries.

The SSA packet will be placed on the Shows and Judges’ website page as a printable packet ...

Handbook Revisions

Below are the revisions that were approved for the 2016 *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*. The added language is listed in bold and underlined. These will go into effect on November 15, 2020.

1. On page 52, revise under Condition, Points, to state: Points: deduct 1/2 point **for each** spent blossom **and up to 1/2 point each for limp, damaged, marred, discolored, or faded blossom.**
2. On page 79, the last paragraph, change the September/October 2018 revision to read: “Two thirds of the total exhibits must be in horticulture division(s) or the show will not be judged. To be considered for the AVSA Standard Show Awards, **over 50%** of the horticulture division(s) must be comprised of African violets.” (Note: Blue ribbons received by exhibitors in shows not considered for AVSA Standard Show Award **will** still count toward judging certification.) A signed show schedule **will** count toward shows judged for **senior** judging certification.
3. On page 88, under Judging School Procedures for Teachers, delete what is currently listed under 4., and replace with the following:
4. Each examination shall consist of 100 points: 90 points for a written exam and 10 points for

point scoring two African violet specimen plants. The exam can be split into sections, which may facilitate grading. The final section of the test shall consist of the point scoring of two African violet specimen plants. The judging of each plant will be worth five points: three points are allotted for the point score judging of each plant and two points for the comments supporting each point score. Official AVSA point score sheets shall be used for this portion scoring.

a. The entire 100-point exam may be given in the classroom setting. OR

b. The written portion may be split into two parts: Part 1 consisting of 50 points as an open book test to be completed at home and brought to class. Part 2 consisting of 40 points to be completed in the classroom setting.
c. In all cases, the point scoring of the two African violets shall be in the classroom setting.

Stay happy, healthy, and safe during these difficult times. Growing plants can be a rewarding endeavor. They will enjoy the extra attention.

GROWING TO SHOW



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HOW TO GROW PRIZE-WINNING



AFRICAN VIOLETS

By Pauline Bartholomew and The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Revised 2008



In Search of New Violets

By Dr. Jeff Smith

Indiana Academy, Ball State University • Muncie, IN 47306

Email: JSmith4@bsu.edu

In the first issue of the *African Violet Magazine* for 2020, I hinted that there might be an announcement about a possible new type of leaf variegation. I hope everyone saw the article on cosmic variegation shown by Cosmic Fairy in the July/August issue of the *AVM*. This was the plant I was hinting about. The evidence as of this writing seems to support that the foliage dots of cosmic variegation are not caused by a virus. We know that the trait can be transmitted through leaf cuttings. I'm sure that hybridization experiments currently are underway to determine if and how the trait can be transmitted through sexual reproduction.

Since most variegated leaf traits are transmitted maternally through the cytoplasm, I would suggest using Cosmic Fairy as the seed parent. However, I hope some hybridizers try reciprocal crosses using Cosmic Fairy as the pollen parent to see if the trait might be due to a gene in the nucleus and can be transmitted by both parents. An inheritance pattern of leaf variegation through both parents is rare but is known in other plant species. Time will tell if this type of leaf variegation catches on and more cultivars are developed with the trait.

Q: Why are the stamen and anther numbers variable in African violets?

A: African violets belong to the dicot group of plants. In addition to having two cotyledons, or seed leaves, the flowers of this group usually have floral parts in multiples of fours or fives. The Gesneriaceae, the plant family to which African violets belong, usually have five sepals, five petals, two to five stamens and one pistil. Stamen number in African violets is strongly linked to flower shape. Pansy-shaped flowers have two stamens (the other three are repressed) and star-shaped flowers have five stamens. Star-shaped flowers with six petals often have six stamens. As you can see, petal number and

stamen number link together strongly. However, many mutations in floral parts exist.

Time will tell if this
type of leaf variegation
catches on.

For example, the floral parts all can convert to sepals. The resulting flowers look like miniature cabbages and never open. Being green, the flowers last for a long time. Optimara NeverFloris is an example of this mutation. In double-petaled African violet flowers, the stamens are converted to petals. These plants are male sterile because they produce no stamens, anthers or pollen. There are also examples in which all the floral parts convert to pistils. Flowers of this mutation look like pincushions with all the pistils pointing up at various angles. Flowers also can have multiple layers of stamens. When these are converted to petals, the result is triple-petaled flowers. A list of all the flower part mutations possible in African violets would likely take a full page.

Q: Do the mutations in flower parts affect their fertility?

A: It depends on the mutation, but the answer often is "yes." Stamens convert easily to petals, making the flower male sterile. In some cases, the pistil also converts to a petal and the flower has no functioning sexual parts. Semidouble flowers may or may not have functional stamens. Interestingly, lowering the fertilizer to semidouble flower plants can shift the expression of the stamens from petals back to stamens and restore their fertility. Starving the plant for nutrients seems to restore sexual reproduction.

In a few cases, the stamens develop partly into petals. When they do, the pollen sacs or anther generally remain undeveloped and the plant is male sterile. A recently developed series from Optimara, the Optimara Looxo plants, have no stamens. These plants are male sterile, but they also do not attract thrips. This mutation may be similar to sunflowers that don't produce pollen. So, the final answer — mutate the flowers, and the plant often loses the ability to reproduce sexually.

Q: Now that summer is here, why are some of my flowers changing color?

A: African violet pigments can be sensitive to temperature. During summer, when conditions in the Northern Hemisphere are warmer, the flowers might produce less pigment and become lighter in color compared to flowers on the same plant produced under cooler growing conditions. The thumbprint mutation in flowers is notorious for changing expression under different temperatures. Under cooler conditions, flowers commonly display more white areas and less pigmented areas. Less white areas and more pigmented areas often are seen under warmer growing conditions. In a few instances, the flower color can shift from red to more of a red violet as more blue pigment is produced under cooler growing conditions. I've also seen a few cases where flowers are totally white under warm conditions but show pink or pink markings under very cool conditions.

The underlying reason for these color variations is a change in either the gene expression or a change in the ability of the pigment making enzymes to function under different temperatures. The result is a change in the amount of pigment production and a subsequent change in the apparent color of the flower. The only treatment for these situations is to tightly control the temperature of growing conditions. If the temperature, especially the nighttime temperature, stays constant, the amount of pigment produced should stay the same and the flower color won't change.

Q: I like flowers that have paler color on the back of the petals. Do you know how this trait is inherited?

A: I have not seen any data on crosses for this trait, so I don't know for sure how it is inherited. However,

the trait is uncommon. It only seems to be found in a few plants like Picasso. Given how rare the trait seems to be, I would speculate that it might be inherited as a recessive trait. Dominant traits, like thumbprint flowers, tend to reproduce easily and become "common" in the African violet trade.

Q: How can I breed to increase the size of the flowers on African violets?

A: The simplest way to increase flower size is to breed plants with large flowers with others that have large flowers. Some of the offspring likely will display slightly larger flowers than either parent. However, selection for size can go only so far. The amount of energy it takes to produce large flowers usually is limited and will be drawn from some other part of the plant. Frequently, the number of flowers on the bloom stalk decreases to provide the energy for larger flowers.

Your choice is to have a small number of large flowers on the bloom stalk, or a larger number of smaller flowers. It's difficult because of energy demands to produce both large size and large number together. Even when you get both traits together, the plant often must take energy from other parts, resulting in smaller leaves and decreased plant size. African violets have only so much energy available to them. If you spend it in one location, the price often is a decrease in size and vigor in another.

Q: Why do some fantasy plants produce flowers that are solid color on one side and fantasy marked on the other? Sometimes the flowers split colors and are blue on one side and pink on the other with no fantasy markings at all.

A: Fantasy is a very unstable trait because it is caused by pieces of DNA moving in and out of position. When the position of the DNA changes, the expression of traits changes. During flower development, the DNA can be completely lost in one group of progenitor cells that are making up a flower. Once the trait is gone, the expression of the fantasy marks also is gone. The result is a section of the flower with solid colors and no fantasy marks. Sometimes the lost piece of DNA is in the genes that control flower color. This results in sections that are blue while other sections are pink. Sometimes I think the only "stable" thing about fantasy is that it will be "unstable."



AVSA Affiliate Update

By Jeri Anderson, Affiliate Chair

Email: affiliate@avsa.org

These have been the most unusual few months. The COVID-19 pandemic certainly put a stop to everything. So many events had to be cancelled. Some clubs notified me about their event being cancelled, but the event was not in the event listing. What had happened is that their show schedule had been sent in for approval, but no one sent in their event information. So, remember to submit your event (avsa.org/events) after getting your show schedule approved if you want it to be posted on the AVSA website.

Virtual Convention

Even if you didn't participate in the 2020 Virtual Violet Convention, I really hope you took the time to visit the convention online. It's amazing just how much work got done to provide an entire convention online. There were plant and design entries, new introduction pictures of all the beautiful new hybrids, four full presentations, selfie pictures of AVSA members, and even a convention pin to purchase. The commercial page had links to all our wonderful vendors' websites. Of course, there also was the invitation to our 75th convention to be held in Atlanta.

Club Updates

The Local Clubs area of the AVSA website is almost up to date. If your club is one of those without an update date, please take the time to do a club update via the AVSA website. Just click on "Local Clubs" and you will see the area for the Local Club Update. It only takes a few minutes and is most helpful for people looking for an African violet club in their area.

Fall Check-in

September is the time of year when clubs resume their regular meetings after the summer break. Take the time to follow up on any members who do not

come back in the fall. Did they lose interest in your club and move on to something else? Or, is there something about your club that they do not like? Sometimes, all it takes is a personal call to help members feel wanted.

Remember to submit
your event after
getting your show
schedule approved.

New Clubs

The Upstate African Violet Club of South Carolina has become an AVSA affiliate. Welcome!

We have a list of members working to start a club:

- Laura Carpenter: Lancaster, CA;
Phone: 661-940-3990
- Mary Ann Markey: Port Charlotte, FL;
Email: drmaogrady@gmail.com
- Jennie Lawrence: Laramie, WY;
Email: missjennae@yahoo.com
- Rebecca Klase: Greensboro, NC;
Email: rklase@gmail.com

Hopefully, someone will be interested in joining a club in one of these areas. There are several states that do not have even one African violet club. If you live in one of these states, please consider starting a local club. If you are trying to start a new club in your area, please contact the Affiliate Chair for help.



Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

Frozen in Time

AVSA 75th Anniversary

Hybridized by: Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/Sorano

Honor Roll, 2004

Standard

Necessity: The Mother of Invention

By Paul Kroll Lancaster, New York

The cancellation of shows and conventions this year has created a problem for many of us who propagate plants for the sales tables. I had so many starter plants to donate to those sales and no way to get them moved on to new homes! They began to outgrow the trays and Solo cups I had used. What to do?

Letting Friends Know

I typed up a list of plants I had available and sent it out to a few friends to see if there was anything on the list that they wanted. I got a few replies and then came the next problem: How do I ship these plants? I didn't have the materials needed to wrap each Solo cup so that the soil would not spill and mess up the plant itself. In all honesty, I did not want to spend the time, energy and resources to do all of that. I wracked my brain to think of an easier way to pack and ship the promised plants.

In thinking about being on the receiving end of such a package, I became aware of the first thing I would do: Repot the plants in my own soil! I realized that was what anyone who received a new plant would do, since each of us has our own recipe and reasons for the soil mix we use or make ourselves. My starter plants were all in my rooting medium and needed fresh, real soil to move on and grow correctly. I do not wick water any of my plants, but many growers do, so there was another facet to the problem of receiving such a shipment.

Secure Packing Method

I came up with the idea of removing each plant from its Solo cup and putting it into a plastic baggie of proper size. I positioned the root ball at the bottom corner. Then, I gathered the baggie around the root ball and used a number 16 rubber band to secure the root ball, therefore isolating the root ball from the

plant above. This seemed to contain the soil and its possible mess from coming free and getting all over the plant.



Top: A starter plant inside a baggie ready to secure with a rubber band. Bottom: The rubber band holds the baggie in place around the soil of the root ball for easy shipping.

When the baggie was sealed with some air inside, the plant was “cushioned” and secured from bumping and bruising by the baggie packaging. I used crushed

paper and/or shredded paper to further pack and cushion the baggies and their precious cargo within each box.

I am very pleased to report that each package arrived easily and the plants were said to be in excellent condition! All the recipients of the plants and cuttings I sent packed in this manner were happy with the results. Each one told me that the plants arrived in good shape and that they were easily potted into whatever mix and method the recipient uses. The leaf cuttings also were fine, with no tissue, Kleenex, cotton balls, etc., necessary. If you cut leaves from turgid plants, the leaves will survive best if you give them no extra moisture at all. Just pack them in their baggies and send them on!

When the baggie was sealed with some air inside, the plant was “cushioned.”

My idea worked and it was so easy to do. I can only hope that this packing method may work for others to make shipping less of a chore and bring happiness to the recipient.

Support AVSA when you shop!



Did you know that Amazon has a program for shoppers to designate a charity of their choice, and Amazon will contribute a portion of every dollar you spend?

Here's an easy way to support the
African Violet Society of America
at NO EXTRA COST TO YOU!

Just go to smile.amazon.com and follow the directions.

**Select African Violet Society of America
as your organization to support.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Tips and Techniques: Recycle

African violet growers become masters at reusing, repurposing and recycling. We love seeing ideas on materials, tools and tricks you use.

This month's tip comes from Dale Martens: Recycle plastic food containers to provide either isolation to quarantine new plants or to add extra humidity for cuttings or newly potted plants. Wash the containers thoroughly after enjoying your tasty treat. Small condiment containers can be used for seed sowing.

If you have a quick tip or technique, share it with fellow growers. Send your tips and photos, if you have them, to the editor (editor@avsa.org).



Dale's McDonald's containers repurposed for growing, plus one "before" photo ...

Boyce Edens Research Fund

By Randy G. Deutsch Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Donations received from April 1, 2020, through May 31, 2020 Total: \$60

■ **Two-tone — \$25-\$49**

Susan E. Joy, Pickerington, OH

■ **Thumbprint — Under \$25**

Barbara Kirby, St. John, IN

Robert McMeel, Houma, LA

Thumbprint (Continued)

Patricia Miklica, San Jose, CA

Lynn Wallach, Hollywood, FL



Photo Credit: Richard Craft

***Chrysothemis
pulchella***

Exhibited by: Robbie McMeel
Best Other Gesneriad, 2019
AVSA Convention



Photo Credit: Richard Craft

Milky Way Trail

Exhibited by: Dolores Gibbs
Hybridized by: J. Stahl
Best Trailer in Unusual Container,
2019 AVSA Convention
Semiminiature Trailer

Keeping Track of Your Collection

By Amy Cash-Allison Somonauk, Illinois

Before technology made things easier, and I had just a handful of plants, it was a piece of cake remembering all the plants' names, habits and what kind of music they liked. But violets are like potato chips (or rabbits?), and it didn't take long before I had a true addiction. That's when I realized I wanted and needed some kind of organizational system.

I wanted to keep track of when and where I acquired each plant or leaf, and I wanted a multitude of information at my fingertips as I tended the plants. For example, I didn't want to buy from the "mealybug place" again or accidentally overfertilize that delicate one in the back for the third time, whatever its name was. I needed a database on steroids!

Early Record Keeping

In those early days, all I needed was a notebook. Soon I began running out of room and making a mess of it. And, perhaps worst of all was that I couldn't maintain "order," especially the alphabetical kind (gasp!) So, my next brilliant idea was an index card file. For keeping track of all the basics, such as when and where I acquire a plant, what phase I currently have (leaf or plant) and repotting date, this is a good method. Each card can be shuffled, added to, removed easily, etc. An added tip: you also can keep precut description labels in the card file so that when you next repot, the label is ready to go.

However, I didn't care for writing a lot of text on small cards, and I record a lot of information. I needed to elaborate. I needed to extoll the virtues of each special plant. A 3-by-5 card just didn't do it.

So then came "The Binder," which is a great idea for record keeping for growers who prefer something

tangible but not technological. This method provided endless room for notes, the ability to add or remove pages as needed, and room for me to write notes on each plant to my heart's content.

I finally turned to my computer and designed my own inventory list in Excel.

Technology Tools

Eventually my collection grew too large to keep such detailed notes, so I finally turned to my computer and designed my own inventory list in Excel. In landscape format, I list my cultivars alphabetically (of course) in rows and have created several columns for all sorts of information that I have found very useful! I abbreviate when possible and squeeze all the columns together to keep this all on one page. These are the columns that I use:

1. Cultivar name
2. Cultivar's registered/described size
3. Source: When and where did I obtain it?
4. No. of plants I have
5. No. of babies I have
6. No. of set leaves I have
7. Last repotting date
8. Is it blooming true?
9. Growing comments (I keep them brief here)
10. Placement on my shelves (I have a stand/shelf numbering system)
11. Is this cultivar registered? (Helpful because I show)

I print and keep this spreadsheet in my growing area, and I refer to it all the time. While it might seem like overkill to some, it worked well for me when I was growing more than 300 plants on four stands. It still works great for all the basics, as well as keeping track of crosses and seedlings. I still keep a First Class list with all the descriptions of the

cultivars I grow, so I can be sure they are growing and blooming appropriately.

I've found that any type of record keeping system is better than none, because it can save you all sorts of headaches later. Certainly, give it a try and have all your plant info at your fingertips!

Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund

By Janet Riemer Pennington, New Jersey

Donations received in May and June 2020 Total: \$1,680

■ **Chimera — \$1,000**

Anne Nicholas

In honor and memory of Richard Nicholas

■ **Geneva — \$100-\$499**

Anne Nicholas

In memory of Bill Foster

Anne Nicholas

In memory of Tom Savage

■ **Multicolor — \$50-\$99**

Margery I. Clive

Anne Nicholas

In memory of Barbara Kelly

Anne Nicholas

In memory of Judy Millstone

Anne Nicholas

In memory of Edna Rourke

■ **Two-tone — \$25-\$49**

Karyn Cichocki

In honor of Dr. Jeff Smith

Cross Town AVC

Alice A. Inlow

Two-tone (continued)

Sue Ramser

In memory of Nancy Carr

Sue Ramser

In memory of Mary Corondan's sister-in-law, Bonnie

Sue Ramser

In memory of Barbara Kelly

Sue Ramser

In memory of Shirley Berger

Sue Ramser

In memory of Art Boland

Cathy Willis

In memory of Nancy Carr

■ **Thumbprint — Under \$25**

Karen Boswell

Florence Fazekas

Dawn McCollum

Patricia Miklica

John L. Patterson

An Interview with a Show-Winning Violet

By Susan Shaw Loveland, Colorado

Hi. My name is Picasso and I just won Best Standard at the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council show. I am so proud of myself and the other gesneriads my plant mom grows. I would like to share some secrets that my mom has taught me.

Early Life

I remember when I started from a leaf. My plant mom snapped my petiole, leaving about 1.5 inches so that more cells would put out roots. She then placed me in a Solo cup after dipping my stem in cinnamon. She makes the soil herself using peat moss, perlite and vermiculite, with some dolomite lime to bring my home's pH up to 6.7.

To this, she adds mycorrhizae and dry molasses. The dry molasses feeds the mycorrhizae. When filling the cup, she puts in a soaking-wet wick cut from acrylic yarn. Then she puts in about three-quarters of an inch of damp perlite. The perlite in the soil prevents my soil from drowning me. Next goes a layer of soil, and then one-fourth teaspoon of Marathon and a few pieces of horticultural charcoal. She lowers me into the pot and scoops in the soil to cover my roots. It feels so good to stretch and put up babies.

Growing Up

Then I am placed on a tray with egg crating covered with green felt to hide the algae. My mom has a 15-gallon trash can with a sump pump in the bottom that she fills with fertilized water. For fertilizer, she uses one-fourth teaspoon of either Peter's 12-36-14, Plant Marvel 12-31-14, Dyna-Gro 7-9-5, or Dyna-Gro Foliage Pro 9-3-6, plus a drop of Super-thrive. Once a week, she gives all of us a foliar feed with Foliage Pro 9-3-6. She puts one-eighth teaspoon of the fertilizer in a quart spray bottle. She has a soft hose and a wand to feed me and give me a drink.

Overhead are bright lights. My plant mom uses T12 or T8 fluorescent, or T8 LED lights for 12 hours a day. I love to bask in the bright lights. She also runs a fan near us 24 hours a day so we have plenty of air flow.

To this, she adds
mycorrhizae and dry
molasses.

Getting Ready to Go

I put up many babies, but my mom keeps only two of them. One is for show and one is to sell at our club sales or to give away. When the baby is ready to be potted up into its own pot and blooms, my mom watches to make sure it is true, or that it looks identical to its mother plant and fits the description in First Class. She then keeps disbudding until nine weeks before show, about the time I decide that I am ready to go.

My sister plants — the species — need dolomite lime in the bottom of their pots because they grow on lime rocks in nature. So, she puts one teaspoon of lime on the top of the bottom layer of their soil.

During the time she is waiting for the show, Plant Mom attends The Loveland Sweetheart Violettes Society in Loveland, Colorado. She founded the club in 1975 and is the president. She says it is a privilege to share growing tips and plant material with club members. When Mom comes home, she tells me about all she has learned. Of course, she isolates the new plants and leaves in plastic bags or plastic containers for three months to help keep me safe.

Every so often, my plant mom gives me a shower with lukewarm water to clean my leaves. She makes sure she doesn't get water in my crown. If she does, she rolls a small piece of paper towel up and dabs my crown to absorb the water. Mom puts us on the floor to see which leaves she needs to remove. If we have developed a neck, she scrapes it and removes some of the bottom roots. It feels so good to stretch and put out new roots and leaves.

At two weeks and six weeks before show, our mom uses Peters 5-50-17 fertilizer because it has a high middle number, which helps our roots and blooms. I love that my roots are stimulated to put up more blooms. Some of us that are the prettiest and most symmetrical, and have a large bloom count, go in Oyama Pots. During the waiting time mom puts in some orders with Commercial AVSA members. It is so exciting when we get new brothers and sisters. Of course, they have to be isolated from us.

After the Show

When arriving home from the show, Mom sprays us with one-half teaspoon of Conserve SC, one-half teaspoon of Avid, one-half teaspoon of neem oil and one-half teaspoon of Safer Brand insecticidal soap. She puts the mix in a gallon of hot water and sprays us once a week for three weeks. I love how she helps prevent pests to keep us healthy.

The perlite in the soil prevents my soil from drowning me.

The best part is the success! Some of us won Best in Class, and some of us got special rosettes for Best in Section. But better yet, we won the Horticulture Sweepstakes!



Our proud plant mom with me (Picasso) and her show awards.

Building Maintenance Fund

By Randy G. Deutsch Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Donations received from April 1, 2020, through May 31, 2020 Total: \$165

■ Multicolor — \$50-\$99

John Novak, St. Michaels, MD

■ Two-tone — \$25-\$49

Joan Wilson, Theresa, WI

■ Thumbprint — Under \$25

Ralph Olliges, Jr., St. Louis, MO

Suzanne E. Rasich, Plano, IL

Ann Schmit, Running Springs, CA

Elizabeth Tan, Skillman, NJ

Celebrating 75 Years



Sheraton Atlanta Hotel
165 Courtland St. NE | Atlanta, GA 30303

Sunday, May 30, 2021 ~ Sunday, June 6, 2021

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2021

Show and Salesroom open to the public
9am to 5pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021

Show | 9am to 4pm
Salesroom | 9am to 3pm

Hosted by: The African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta



Visit avsa.org
for more info.

2021 Annual Convention: Celebrate AVSA's 75th Year in Atlanta!

By Kathy Spissman Tucker, Georgia

As the African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta continues to prepare for the celebration in our capital city of Atlanta, Georgia, March 30 through June 6, 2021, we want to let you know about Atlanta's many fun and interesting venues to visit; we are considering some of the venues below for tours.

The Atlanta Botanical Garden

Renowned plant collections, beautiful displays, and spectacular exhibitions make the Atlanta Botanical Garden the loveliest place in town to visit. The Garden, located in Midtown, includes 30 acres of outdoor gardens, a one-of-a-kind Canopy Walk through Storza Woods, and an innovative edible garden featuring an outdoor demonstration kitchen.

The Fuqua Conservatory is an organic biosphere and home to important collections of tropical palms and conifers; the Fuqua Orchid Center is home to a stunning collection of species orchids. Visit: <https://atlantabg.org/>

The World of Coca Cola

At the World of Coca-Cola, experience the fascinating story of the world's most famous beverage brand in a dynamic, multimedia attraction. Get a behind-the-scenes look at the bottling process and view more than 1,200 artifacts ranging from vintage bottles to a 1939 Coca-Cola delivery truck from Argentina. Experience the thrilling 4-D movie, "In Search of the Secret Formula" with 3-D glasses plus moving seats.

Take your taste buds on a trip around the world and sample more than 100 different beverages made by The Coca-Cola Company from

The Fuqua Orchid Center is home to a stunning collection of species orchids.

around the world in the Taste It! beverage lounge. And don't miss the chance to hug and have your picture taken with the very friendly 7-foot-tall Coca-Cola Polar Bear! The World of Coca-Cola is located at 121 Baker Street in Pemberton Place, adjacent to the Georgia Aquarium. Visit: <https://www.worldofcoca-cola.com/>

The King Center

Learn more about Dr. Martin Luther King and his work through timeless exhibits on display at Freedom Hall and around the King Center campus. The Grand Foyer features art from Africa and Georgia and



Fountain with Chilchuly glass at Atlanta Botanical Garden. Image by Gene Phillips and courtesy of ACVB.

Freedom Hall's second floor is used as exhibit space to honor Dr. and Mrs. King, Mahatma Gandhi and Rosa Parks.

Also visit the center's reflecting pool and eternal flame, along with the King Center's library and archives. Visit: www.thekingcenter.org



The Yellow Fish Tunnel at the Georgia Aquarium. Image by Kevin C. Rose and courtesy of ACVB.

The Georgia Aquarium

Georgia Aquarium offers shows, interactive animal experiences, animal encounters, and a 4-D theater.

See sea lions at SunTrust Pier 225, then head to the AT&T Dolphin Coast to learn about dolphin behavior and the human connection.

Georgia Aquarium is dedicated to enhancing conservation and preservation of animals, and help makes a positive impact on aquatic life in Atlanta and around the world. Visit: www.georgiaaquarium.org

Stone Mountain Park

Spread across 3,200 beautiful acres, Stone Mountain Park is Georgia's most-visited attraction — and with good reason. The fun and family activities reign during every season at Stone Mountain Park. The park is built around the world's largest piece of exposed granite (that'd be Stone Mountain). Stone Mountain Park offers hiking trails, picnic spots, and two golf courses. Visit: www.stonemountainpark.com/

With all these and many more places to visit, "Mark Your Calendar" now to attend.

Barbara Burde Endowment Fund

By Randy G. Deutsch Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Donations received from April 1, 2020, through May 31, 2020 Total: \$120

■ **Multicolor — \$50-\$99**
Randy McMahill, Ankeny, IA

■ **Two-tone — \$25-\$49**
Alice A. Inlow, Ballwin, MO

■ **Thumbprint — Under \$25**
Leslie Breen, Houston, TX
Robert McMeel, Houma, LA
Patricia Miklica, San Jose, CA
Maria Den Oudsten, Calgary, Canada



Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

Rainbow's Quiet Riot

AVSA 75th Anniversary

Hybridized by: R. Wasmund

Best in Show for Tony Hulleman, 2002; Honor Roll 2003

Standard

A Retrospect from AVSA Past Presidents

By Carolee Carter, Chair, Publications Committee

The first 50 years of AVSA's existence after the Society was formed in Atlanta in 1946 were commemorated in a special publication for AVSA's 50th anniversary in 1996. AVSA has changed a lot in the past 25 years, and I thought that the best insight into these years would be a view from some of our past presidents.

Not all past presidents were able to participate, but for those who did, their responses are eye-opening and perhaps coincide with what you also believe about AVSA's transition into the digital — and hopefully virus-free — world! Let's listen to what they have to say.



Mary Boland

I was so happy to receive a short but sweet response from Mary Boland, who was president from 1989 to 1991. She joined AVSA in 1959 when she found a small ad in *The Flower Grower* magazine. The annual

subscription was \$3 a year for 4 issues, and she couldn't wait for the next issue. "The magazines were all in black and white, unlike the beautiful issues we now get," she says.

"Not only did I fall in love with the African violet, but I worked with some of the top stars — Ruth Carey, Anne and Frankie Tinari, Lyndon Lyon and many of the older hybridizers — and I gained so many friends. I guess you realize that because I am now 93, I have been unable to go to convention and boy, do I miss that."

And we miss you, Mary!

"It's been exciting to
watch the energy of the
volunteers and staff ..."



Janet Riemer

Janet Riemer, our current AVSA Archivist and president from 2003 to 2005 says: "AVSA has changed considerably since I was president. This evolution can be attributed in large part to Internet technology, and it began

back in 1992 when I was secretary. I remember writing to the Executive Committee while I was an intern at Cornell University, urging them to consider establishing a website. It was the newest thing, and although they agreed and we did get one started, there were considerable problems at first," she says.

According to Janet, "Jim Owens picked it up, and it grew from there." She says that establishing a members-only portal was a major step because it provided a worldwide means to assist violet growers with helpful information without jeopardizing membership goals. "It beautifully augments the *African Violet Magazine*," says Janet.

"Now there is a weekly newsletter available to subscribers via email, complete with information, illustrations and useful tips. Vendors have also benefited from the Internet as growers can obtain plants and supplies from their websites, not just from their ads in the *AVM*," Janet adds.

According to Janet, rather than growing larger, the Society has evolved wider, reaching those who treasure these plants in many ways. “Let’s all hope that we can continue this evolution.”



Joyce Stork

Joyce Stork was president of AVSA from 2007 to 2009. Joyce says, “In 2001 when I first began serving as Third Vice President of AVSA, the Society finances were a major concern. A few months later, the September 11

attack on the Pentagon almost cancelled the 2002 Washington, D.C., convention,” says Joyce. She says that membership decline was steep in those days for all plant societies. “The challenges with hurricanes, flooding and pandemics have been relentless,” she says. “But AVSA has effectively weathered them all, thanks to better investing principles, the establishment of endowments, and generous donations from members.” Joyce attributes an upsurge of the millennial generation’s love of plants for helping to stabilize membership and increase the demand for African violets in the marketplace.

“AVSA has also greatly changed its look in the last 20 years,” says Joyce. “This was bound to happen as the world moved from print publishing to a digital world,” she adds. “The *African Violet Magazine* became more colorful and more modern in its style, especially in recent years.” Joyce feels the AVSA website has evolved to become a powerful tool for teaching, communication, advertising and doing business. “AVSA has worked hard to use social media platforms, which have been effective and economical for teaching new growers and encouraging them to join.”

“It’s been exciting to watch the energy of the volunteers and staff who have stepped forward to help with leadership and projects,” Joyce says. She adds that although there are too many individuals to name, they have been dedicated to making sure that AVSA is there for many years to come. “AVSA continues to be about people as much as it is about violets. We continue to carry out the original objectives, but in new ways. AVSA truly has a bright future.”



Ron Davidson

Ron Davidson, who was AVSA President from 2009 to 2011, shared a lot of historical information and insight into how AVSA has evolved, and his comments gives us a glimpse back in time.

“I got involved in African violets after I retired from the Army in 1990,” says Ron. “My lovely wife, Jan, had African violets that we would move from post to post with us each time we changed stations. When I was transferred to Saudi Arabia, she had to give away all of her violets.” Ron says when he and Jan returned to the U.S. and were stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, Jan saw a sign for an African violet show and sale. “She went to the show and stayed the whole day looking at plants and talking with the local club members,” says Ron. Jan joined the club and became an active member, along with joining the Lone Star AVC, Dixie AVS and AVSA. “I supported her by making two PVC pipe stands with Volkmann light fixtures and helped in setting up shows and sales,” says Ron.

After Ron retired, they moved to the Dallas area and Jan joined Alpha AVS of Dallas, although they lived a long way from where the evening meetings were held. “I sat in the rear of the room during those meetings and programs, and that’s when I got interested in African violets,” says Ron. “We went to our second AVSA convention in Denver in 1995 and have not missed a convention since, entering exhibits at every one, and making lots of friends along the way,” he says.

Ron was on the Shows & Judges Committee, served as an AVSA Director and was responsible for setting up the new entries program (the first time it was used was at the 1999 convention in Houston). “We were very lucky that year because Joe Bruns, who wrote the program, was at Houston,” says Ron. He continued to serve in the entries area until he became AVSA President in 2009.

“I have seen lots of changes, improvements and hard times in AVSA over the years. I worked with the office staff before, during and after the hurricane that caused damage to the AVSA office building.

I surveyed the damage for the Executive Committee and membership,” he says. Ron adds that repairs were accomplished within the insurance budget and with donations from the membership.

According to Ron, AVSA endured a paper records headache for the convention shows until 1999 when the Entries and First Class programs began. He says this major improvement reduced the time and volunteer hours needed to produce a large show. “I would guess that 100 percent of local, regional and state affiliates now use the Entries program,” he says. “The program has gone through a number of changes over the years, and I expect that in the future, entries will move into the digital area, saving more time.”

Ron points to the many updates on the AVSA website that make it more user-friendly. “One major improvement is that members can now register for the convention online, thus reducing staff time; I expect this process to continue to be improved,” adds Ron.

Ron discussed recent events affecting AVSA, including the AVSA office building sale in 2019 and rental of a temporary space that then flooded and damaged computer equipment and storage items. He credits member donations for helping to purchase new equipment and software. Ron says the COVID-19 virus pandemic that resulted in cancellation of the 2020 convention and show was replaced with the “outstanding idea of a virtual convention during the same timeframe. It proved to be a fantastic success with viewers from around the world,” says Ron. He also mentioned how AVSA’s office manager “did a wonderful job of working out of her home” during this trying time.

“Another major improvement is that the Show and Judges Handbook now is available in digital form, as are presentations made during conventions that can be used as programs at local meetings.” He also pointed to the *African Violet Magazine* becoming available in digital form as well as a hard copy for members.

“The future of AVSA rests with the members who volunteer their time and expertise. One area I would like to see receive more guidance and support is the

Nominating Committee,” he says. He would like to see the committee encourage more new members to become directors. “New members bring fresh ideas to the table; prior directors know the ropes about the process,” he says. He believes current officers, committee chairs and directors should spot and recommend members to the Nominating Committee to serve as directors and provide a slate of candidates for member voting each year.

“It has been an honor to work with the AVSA membership over the years. I enjoy the conventions every year just to see existing friends and make new ones. AVSA exists because of the members’ love for African violets and for making wonderful memories with other members with the same passion.”



Linda Hall

Linda Hall was AVSA President from 2011 to 2013. She also has thoughts about the history and advances: “Social media has taken over most publications and education on African violets.

What I have observed is that as social media increased, membership in AVSA decreased. I actually tracked that from 2000 to 2013,” says Linda. She says some of this might be attributed to older members passing away and younger people preferring social media to printed materials today. She adds that she thinks social media gives away for free what the magazine can provide. “This is just changing times, but it does not help AVSA’s bottom line,” she says.

Linda sees a big difference in two other areas: First is chemical use to control pests and diseases. “We are much more conscientious about what we spray in our homes and greenhouses and are no longer using all those toxic chemicals.

“Second is the type of lighting we are using for our grow lights,” says Linda. She said many members started with T12 bulbs, then T8s and now LEDs. “We used grow bulbs, daylight bulbs, cool whites and warm whites. What will the future bring?”



Winston Goretsky

For the last reflections, we hear from Winston Goretsky, who was president from 2015 to 2017. He shares a lot of optimism for the future of our beloved African violet, worldwide love of growing the plants, and his thoughts

about technology's effects on our hobby.

"I began photographing at AVSA conventions as the official photographer nearly 25 years ago. That time has seen the evolution of technology move from film photography to the levels of digital technology, which was unfathomable at the early adoptive stages," he says. He credits technology with advancing our ability to run computerized shows with lists, labels, entry cards, awards and electronic variety lists. "Those who can remember how everything was done previously through a tedious, lengthy, and manual process will realize the incredible advancements that have been made in just shows alone."

Winston says that websites that have been created, revised and re-imagined have expanded our reach to the rest of the world "to share and encourage others in the culture and cultivation of our favorite gesneriad, the African violet." He adds that social media, text messaging, live video conferencing, and many other forms of communication have flooded our daily life so we can learn, share and exchange our knowledge with others with very little effort. "This year, 2020, will mark the first availability of the *African Violet Magazine* in electronic format. This will allow our magazine to reach the African violet world in a way that will enhance our delivery of and access to this publication," he says.

Global reach also has erased borders, says Winston. "There are enthusiasts who grow African violets and hybridize new varieties all over the world:

... "many new and exciting things are on the horizon."

Russia, Ukraine, Japan, China, Czechoslovakia, United Kingdom, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Iran, Turkey, and so many other countries from whom we have been amazed to learn of their African violet activities. It's humbling and exhilarating for a hybridizer to see a photograph of their hybrid being grown in a country 10,000 miles away from where it originated."

Winston is thrilled to know that despite our isolation and concern our efforts to reach others are futile, "the African violet is 'out there' providing so many people with excitement, happiness and the interest to share and learn more about its culture and cultivation. It truly is a plant that brings people together and allows us to share a common bond, which is a rare thing to find these days," says Winston.

"I know, as time moves forward, that many new and exciting things are on the horizon. I also know that I can sit back, enjoy my African violets and wonder, what on Earth is coming next?"

We're all ready for what comes next, thanks to the past and current leadership and volunteerism in our society. I hope you have enjoyed these reflections and will look forward with enthusiasm to the continued evolution of our beloved African violet.

Celebrating AVSA 2000 to 2005

By Teresa Odle Email: editor@avsa.org

As we count down to AVSA's 75th Anniversary celebration in May 2021, we're looking back and celebrating the history of AVSA and the popularity of growing African violets. In this issue, Carolee Carter, chair of the Publications Committee, compiled interviews from past AVSA presidents (see page 44).

We also are focusing on the years 2000 to 2005 in this issue with featured photos of plants that were hybridized, won major show awards, or that were and still are favorites of African violet growers. I've gone through some of the past issues of *African Violet Magazine* and gathered some excellent tips from articles published in those years that stand the test of time.

Product Problems

Strange things can happen to plants that have no obvious explanation. Often, African violet growers assume the worst: rampant pests or widespread disease. But sometimes the answer is something a little off. Here are two great examples from the July/August 2000 issue:

Georgene Albrecht gave an update in the Gesneri-Advice column of Dale Martens. One of Georgene's tips included this: "One of our delightful new growers, Nan Walther, had a very interesting thing happen. Her violets started having huge pollen sacs and mutation of the flowers. She finally found that her Superthrive had evaporated over the years and that it was exceptionally strong." Georgene explained that when Nan used one drop per gallon, it was actually much more concentrated. "Remember, Superthrive contains growth hormones. It must be used sparingly and one must use a fertilizer with it."

George R. Stewart described a problem his sister-in-law had with her violet collection, one she assumed came from a virus or bug. Soon after his visit with her, George was watering his collection and thought he

had grabbed a half-gallon container of his premixed violet food. He poured it into a few pots before a strong smell took over. "I had the wrong half-gallon bottle and had watered two plants with ammonia!" George described his attempts to rescue the few plants he had "watered," but they later died.

This added weight
keeps the wick from
twisting and curling.

At least some good came out of his error, though. "I called my sister-in-law and asked her about her use of window cleaners," George said. "I found out that she freely used ammonia window cleaners around her violets. I shared my ammonia experience," George said. He added that he and his sister-in-law now took precautions when using chemical-based cleaners around their collections. "Today, we both have fine collections of healthy violets," he said.

Making Wicks Behave

I loved this tip from Jana Strathman in the November/December 2004 issue of *AVM* and have reprinted it here:

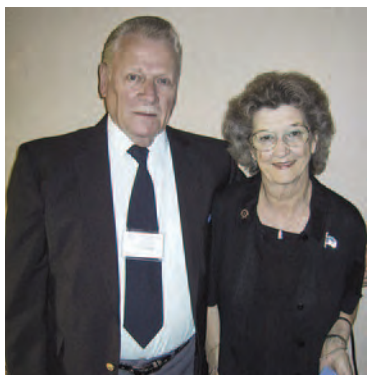
Do you have trouble getting your wicks into the proper holes, or has a plant dried out because the wick didn't make it into the water?

To prevent this from happening to my plants, I take the smallest "sinker" or "split shot" used for fishing and pinch it onto the bottom of my wicks. This added weight keeps it from twisting and curling, and even from snagging on the egg crate.

AVSA 75th Anniversary: 2001 to 2005



L to R: Meredith Hall in Chicago, 2001; Janet Riemer at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago, 2001; Daphne Snell, Chicago, 2001.



L to R: Judy and Paul Kroll with Paul's Hudson Memorial Award, Washington, DC, 2002; Kazuo Horikoshi with Vladimir and Tatiana Kalgin, Washington, DC, 2002; Art and Mary Boland, Baton Rouge, 2003.



L to R: Court of Honor, Tucson, 2004; Elmer Godeny, Sue Ramser, and Jenny Daugereau in Tucson, 2004; Paul Sorano and Marie Burns, Cincinnati, 2005.

Do Your Trailers Need A Makeover?

By Paul Kroll Lancaster, New York

Most growers of African violets have no trouble with grooming the rosette types. They might find a sucker to remove now and then, but following the triangles and sticking to that rule of three keeps most rosette plants on track and looking their symmetrical best. Growing and grooming trailers is a different story! I confess that it took me quite a while longer to feel comfortable with trailing-type African violets and their management.

Since judges evaluate trailers based on form rather than symmetry, we need to help them attain their best form. Remember, form does not mean round only. Form can be oblong, triangular, oval, etc.

Bite the Bullet and Make the Cuts

One of my local club members said years ago, “I love the appearance of trailers, but mine always look like weeds compared to the rosettes I grow.” Well, perhaps one needs to bite the proverbial bullet and see why that is true. When hobbyists first begin to grow trailers, even for their own enjoyment only, the early results might look like weeds, indeed! Most often, that is because the plants lack proper grooming,

which can be due to fear on the part of the grower. Yes, fear. It can be more than a bit scary to dig into grooming a trailing violet. What I mean is, you must be bold and remove more leaves and/or crowns than you might think necessary.

One of the reasons a trailer does not bloom properly is that the growth is too thick and needs to be thinned, perhaps isolating the crowns to allow more light to reach the proper places and encourage buds and eventual flowering. When you look at a trailer that has been allowed to grow as it pleased, you will see many extra leaves. Strive to look carefully at the crowns and remove anything extra that blocks them from being clearly observed among all that growth.

A Grooming Example

I have used Cirelda as my example for this article. It is a semi-miniature trailer hybridized by Canadian Pat Tracey (AVSA registration number 3620, CA 202 – 1979). See the first photo of the “weedy looking” plant. The second photo shows the leaves that have been removed to produce the appearance in the third photo of the plant, partially groomed. The last



Left: Cirelda trailer before grooming. Center: Removed leaves. Right: Partially groomed plant.

photo, with the ruler included for size, shows the final result of my cutting away even more surplus leaves to show the crowns separated nicely. The plant has been repotted into a 5-inch tub to grow on.



Cirelda: final result.

Many of us are visual learners and need to see a “surgical procedure” like this to grasp the technique thoroughly. I realize that, but suggest to growers to not be afraid to tackle this type of thing; you can do it! We all know full well how strong and resilient our plants can be. They will respond to this grooming, and what might seem to be severe treatment.

It can be more than a bit scary to dig into grooming a trailing violet.

Keep in mind that for show purposes, trailers need to grow from one “trunk” beneath the soil line and have at least three crowns visible to be eligible for awards. The type of treatment I have described here is not the Japanese style of pinning down the runners, but rather grooming the plant so that it still grows from one stem or trunk below the soil line. There is only so much “burying” of the trunk or stem that can happen before it will be necessary to break up the crowns and start them over individually.

JOIN TODAY!

The African Violet Society of America



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<http://avsa.org>

Write or call today for information



Registration Report

By Joe Brunns

1220 Stratford Lane • Hanover Park, IL 60133

Email: jbruns@qwip.net

■ Stanley Ko — Shatin NT, Hong Kong

Ko's Ernest Desire

- (11262) 05/08/2020 •S. Ko
- Single chimera purple sticktite ruffled star/white-green stripe, white puff fantasy.
- Dark green, quilted, variable white-spotted red back. •Standard.

Ko's Festive Magic

- (11263) 05/08/2020 •S. Ko
- Semidouble chimera white frilled star/purple stripe.
- Medium green, ovate, quilted. •Semiminiature.

Ko's Glamour

- (11264) 05/08/2020 •S. Ko
- Double chimera white star/medium pink stripe, green ruffled edge.
- Medium green, wavy. •Standard.

Ko's Midnight Kiss

- (11265) 05/08/2020 •S. Ko
- Single chimera purple star/lavender stripe, pink puff fantasy.
- Dark green, plain/red back. •Standard.

Ko's Show Time

- (11266) 05/08/2020 •S. Ko
- Single chimera green sticktite pansy/white eye, purple stripe.
- Dark green, quilted, serrated, variable white-spotted red back. •Standard.

Ko's Surprising

- (11267) 05/08/2020 •S. Ko
- Double chimera green ruffled star/white stripe.
- Medium green, quilted, wavy. •Standard.

Milk's Baby Fat

- (11268) 05/08/2020 •S. Ko/Shu-Hua Fu
- Single chimera wine pansy/white stripe.
- Chimera variegated light green and white, quilted.
- Semiminiature.

■ Valerie Despres — Aylesford, Nova Scotia, Canada

Chelsea Chantalle

- (11269) 05/09/2020 •V. Despres
- Semidouble-double pink/purple fantasy.
- Dark green, quilted. •Small standard.

■ Pat Hancock — Middletown, OH

Buckeye Camera Ready

- (11270) 05/11/2020 •P. Hancock
- Semidouble hot pink large ruffled pansy/lavender and purple fantasy.
- Variegated medium-dark green, pink and cream, quilted, glossy, ruffled. •Large.

Buckeye Center of Attention

- (11271) 05/11/2020 •P. Hancock
- Semidouble-double pink two-tone large ruffled pansy/lavender and purple fantasy.
- Variegated medium green, pink and cream, plain, glossy. •Large.

Buckeye Clockwork Orange

- (11272) 05/11/2020 •P. Hancock
- Single-semidouble coral-orange ruffled pansy.
- Variegated medium green and cream, plain, glossy. •Large.

Buckeye Clownin' Around

- (11273) 05/11/2020 •P. Hancock
- Single-semidouble light pink wavy pansy/darker eye, purple fantasy.
- Variegated medium green and cream, glossy, serrated. •Large.

Buckeye Color Me Hot

- (11274) 05/11/2020 •P. Hancock
- Single-semidouble coral-red large ruffled pansy/variable dark red edge.
- Variegated dark green, cream and pink, plain, glossy. •Large.

Buckeye Columbus Platinum

- (11275) 05/11/2020 •P. Hancock
- Semidouble-double pink two-tone large ruffled pansy/lavender and purple fantasy.
- Variegated dark green, pink and cream, quilted, glossy. •Large.

Buckeye Eye Candy

- (11276) 05/11/2020 •P. Hancock
- Semidouble-double blue-purple pansy/thin white ruffled edge, variable white fantasy.
- Variegated dark green, cream and pink, plain, glossy. •Large.

Buckeye Foto Finish

- (11277) 05/11/2020 •P. Hancock
- Semidouble white large ruffled pansy/pink patches.
- Variegated medium green and cream, plain, glossy. •Large.

Buckeye Kiss 'n' Tell

- (11278) 05/11/2020 •P. Hancock
- Single-semidouble lavender-pink ruffled star/purple fantasy.
- Variegated dark green, pink and cream, glossy, ruffled. •Large.

Buckeye Let's Roll

- (11279) 05/11/2020 •P. Hancock
- Single-semidouble plum ruffled pansy/variable thin white edge.
- Variegated dark green, pink and cream, quilted, glossy, serrated. •Large.

Buckeye Main Squeeze

- (11280) 05/11/2020 •P. Hancock
- Semidouble dark blue-purple pansy/raspberry ruffled edge.
- Variegated dark green, pink and cream, quilted, glossy, ruffled. •Large.

Buckeye Real Deal

- (11281) 05/11/2020 •P. Hancock
- Single-semidouble blue pansy/random white-green ruffled edge.
- Variegated dark green, pink and cream, glossy, ruffled. •Large.

Buckeye Ribbons 'n' Lace

- (11282) 05/11/2020 •P. Hancock
- Single-semidouble pink ruffled pansy/white rays, random white edge.
- Variegated dark green, pink and cream, glossy, serrated. •Large.

Buckeye Ruby Ripples

- (11283) 05/11/2020 •P. Hancock
- Single-semidouble ruby-red ruffled pansy.
- Variegated medium green and cream, glossy, ruffled. •Large.

■ Registration Change

The following have been changed at the request of the hybridizer:

Rivermist Eva Britta

- (10984) — Add “variable” to foliage description (variable white-spotted red back).

Rivermist Galaxy

- (10973) — Add “variable” to foliage description (variable white-spotted red back).

Rivermist Zombie

- (10986) — Add “variable” to foliage description (variable white-spotted red back).



And the Winners Are ...

By Mary J. Corondan

434 Plumwood Way • Fairview, TX 75069

Email: winners@avsa.org

■ Central California AVS, CA — Winners:

• Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smooch Me, EK-Goluboglazaia Rossiia, Jersey Snow Flakes; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Jitterbug Begin the Beguine; Best Standard: EK-Goluboglazaia Rossiia; Best Trailer: Carolina Bodacious; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* GxB #1, **Stephen Covolo**.

• 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Buckeye Scrumptious, Buckeye Sketch Artist; Best Miniature: Morgan's Declan Duff; Design Sweepstakes, **Renee Wilson**.
• Best Design, **Lola Sutherland**.
• Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Karen Gallow**.

In Memory

Therese J. Lynam

Therese J. Lynam of Brandon, Florida, passed away on March 9, 2020. Therese had a heart of gold and always was willing to help anyone who needed her. Her passion was growing African violets and helping the homeless when she could. She was a member of Tampa AVS, AV Council of Florida, Dixie AVS and AVSA. She served as treasurer of Tampa AVS. Therese is survived by three children, three siblings, and three grandchildren.

Lynne H. Wilson

Lynne H. Wilson of Tampa, Florida, passed away on March 12, 2020, after a five-year battle with lung cancer. For many years, Lynne was a Girl Scout leader and a volunteer. Later, she developed a passion for African violets and over the years was president of Tampa AVS and AV Council of Florida and was immediate past president of Dixie AVS. She also was a member of AVSA and had served as the society's Affiliate Chair. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, William L. Wilson, her daughter and son-in-law, a sister and brother-in-law, and nieces and nephew.

AVSA Recognition

Do you know someone who serves AVSA and deserves recognition? We would be pleased to honor them with a Society Award. The website, www.avsa.org, has applications for nominees. We want to acknowledge those who serve the Society,

especially those who work in the background without anyone noticing all that they do to move the AVSA forward. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Hall at linda.hall6641@hotmail.com.

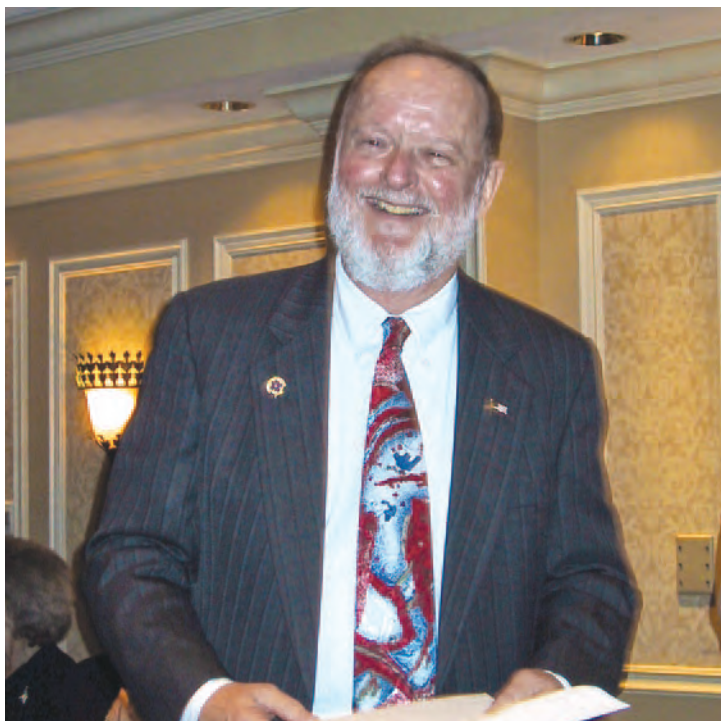


Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

Jack Wilson

Honorary Life Member
Recipient, at the AVSA
National Convention in
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 2003

Let's Go to the Library!

By Richard Craft Las Vegas, Nevada

Email: library@avsa.org

AVSA has a library? In the conventional sense, the AVSA Library is described as consisting of a “wide variety of materials.” In the past these included content featured on DVDs, videos, 35 mm slides, and cassettes. Yes, there was a time that affiliates could *rent* those last two items and use them in club activities.

The media produced by the AVSA Library Committee has changed dramatically over the years. The following products currently are available to order from the AVSA website:

- **Educational media** such as “Perfectly Pittman! From Sunrise to Sundown,” is available in DVD or thumb drive. Webinars such as “Meet the Gesneriad Family — A Guide to Easy Growing” are available as digital downloads.

- **Conventions** from the past have been archived on DVDs and thumb drives and members still can order thumb drives. They consist of a narrated slide show of new introductions of African violets that year, photos of horticulture and design exhibits, and candid shots of people attending the convention.

- **A photo gallery** on the AVSA website of all the winning horticulture and design entries has replaced the Convention DVDs for 2018 and 2019.

- **A video** was created last year of the Salesroom Opening at the Houston Convention. Check out the AVSA YouTube Channel to view it.

See the box on the right for links to these products. We are in the process of evaluating and possibly eliminating some of the older Library offerings. You may want to order them while they still are available.

Library Committee Involvement in 2020

This year raised the bar on how AVSA could present conventions to the public through the Virtual Violets Convention website. The Library Committee thanks everyone who contributed to the Virtual Convention:

- The 136 exhibitors who submitted 561 photos of their African violets, gesneriads and designs.

- The many hybridizers from around the world who shared photos of their newest cultivars (187 African violets and 63 gesneriads.)

- Dr. Minh Bui, Dale Martens, Adrienne “Annie” Rieck and Glenda Williams for their educational workshops. These presentations can be viewed anytime on AVSA’s YouTube Channel.

You can read all about the Virtual Convention in the July/August *African Violet Magazine*.

Be a Part of AVSA History

- Are you a skilled photographer who wants to display your beautiful photos of winning showroom exhibits?

- Do you have experience behind a video camera and want to tape an AVSA workshop?

- Can you creatively edit a video so everyone can enjoy an educational offering on our YouTube Channel?

Contact Richard Craft at library@avsa.org if you would like to join a team that keeps the history of AVSA alive.

AVSA Library Website Links

Educational Media
www.avsa.org/education

Past Convention DVDs
www.avsa.org/store-convention

Photo Gallery of Past Convention Show
Winning Plants and Designs
www.avsa.org/library_conventions

AVSA YouTube Channel
www.youtube.com/c/AfricanVioletSocietyofAmerica



Photo Credit: AVSA Library Committee

Honey Berry, Cheers, Beginner's Luck

Exhibited by: Kurt Jablonski
Best Texas-hybridized
Collection (Mini/Semimini)
2019 Annual Convention,
Houston



Photo Credit: AVSA Library Committee

Cajun's Lil Forever Blue

Exhibited by: Mary Corondan
Hybridized by:
Belinda Thibodeaux
2nd Best African Violet in Show
2019 Annual Convention,
Houston



Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

Persian Prince

AVSA 75th Anniversary

Hybridized by: S. Sorano

Best in Show for Susan Hapner, 2004 AVSA Convention in Tucson

Miniature



Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

Orchard's Bumble Magnet

AVSA 75th Anniversary

Hybridized by: R. Wilson
Tally Time, 2003 and 2019
Honor Roll, 2004
Miniature



Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

B-Man's Palma

AVSA 75th Anniversary

Exhibited by: Dianne Good
Hybridized by: B. Curcuruto
2002 Annual Convention,
Washington, DC
Large Standard

Minutes of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

May 24 to June 2, 2020 Virtual Violets Convention

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. was held through the 2020 Virtual Violets Convention website from May 24 through June 2, 2020, and by votes received from May 1 through June 4, 2020.

Sue Ramser, President, stated a quorum was represented by the email votes received. President Ramser appointed Jeri Anderson, Chair; and Stephen Covolo and Richard Craft to approve the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes. Candace Baldwin reported that the 2019 minutes of the Annual Business Meeting were approved.

Randy Deutsch, Nominating Committee Chair, reported in the March/April 2020 *African Violet Magazine* and on the Virtual Violets Convention website. The Nominating Committee submitted the following to serve as directors until the conclusion of the 2023 Annual Meeting:

Douglas Allen, Michigan

Dr. Minh Bui, Maryland

Winston J. Goretsky, Alberta, Canada

Nancy Hayes, Connecticut

Sandra Skalski, New Jersey

No further nominations were received. The directors were elected from the ballots submitted. The formal installation of these directors will take place at the installation banquet in Atlanta in 2021.

President Ramser recognized the retiring Directors:

Sallie Barlow, Louisiana

Linda Ingle, Oregon

Linda Kilby, Pennsylvania

Sandy McIntosh, Kentucky

Renee Wilson, California

The retiring Committee Chairs were recognized by President Ramser:

Sue Hoffmann, Resolutions

Paul Kroll, Editorial Board

Penny Smith-Kerker, Library Committee

Via the 2020 Virtual Convention website, it was announced that the 2021 AVSA 75th Anniversary Convention would be held in Atlanta, Georgia. Kathy Spissman will be serving as Convention Chair and extended a video invitation on the Virtual Violets Convention website. She was joined by Suzanne Myers, Convention Co-Chair; Libbie Glembocki, Convention Show Chair; and Brenda Petry, Convention Show Co-Chair.

The Annual Membership Rebate this year was awarded to Violet Barn with 55 new AVSA members.

Sue Hoffmann, Resolutions Chair, posted a list of deceased members from this past year on the Virtual Violets Convention website and the list was published in the July/August issue of *AVM*. No additional names were added.

There was no further business to report.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Corondan, Interim Secretary

Committee to approve:

Jeri Anderson, Chair

Stephen Covolo

Richard Craft

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Combined Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2019

Assets:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 69,954.51
Investments	91,713.03
Accounts Receivable	2,517.21
Inventories	5,621.67
Prepaid Expenses	9,000.00
Restricted Assets:	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	77,236.45
Investments	466,407.30
Capital Assets:	
Other Capital Assets, Net of Depreciation	<u>910.29</u>
Total Assets	<u>723,360.46</u>

Liabilities:

Accrued Payroll Taxes Payable	245.35
Sales Taxes Payable	1,507.80
Deferred Revenue	<u>117,245.74</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>118,998.89</u>

Net Assets:

Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	396,594.33
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions-Designated	150,629.42
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	<u>57,137.82</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$604,361.57</u>

Interested in Serving on the AVSA Board?

AVSA Members may apply to be considered for nomination to the position of Director. Director duties include:

- Attending the annual AVSA conventions during their term in office.
- Completing an annual report to the Board of Directors.
- Accepting duties as assigned, including but not limited to, serving on committees, overseeing a region of affiliates, helping at annual conventions, etc.

Those who have served at least two years as an AVSA Director can apply to serve in one of the officer positions. Leading up to 2021, AVSA will be seeking

candidates for 3rd Vice President and Secretary, as well as Directors.

Download an Application Form from the AVSA website.

Wish to Suggest a Candidate for Director or Officer?

Please contact Linda Hall, Nominating Committee Chairman, at nominating@avsa.org to suggest an individual who should be considered for nomination as a director or officer. The Chair will contact the potential nominee to request an application form. Please include the individual's phone and/or email contact information.



AVSA Directors and Executive Committee Members pose for a group photo at the 2005 AVSA National Convention in Cincinnati. Photo credit: Winston Goretsky.



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For more information visit www.avsc.ca

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